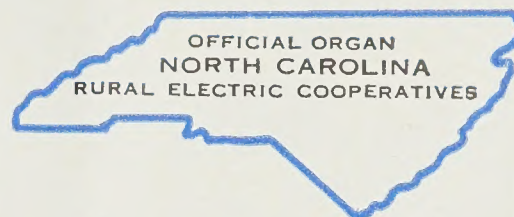


the Carolina Farmer

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November, 1953

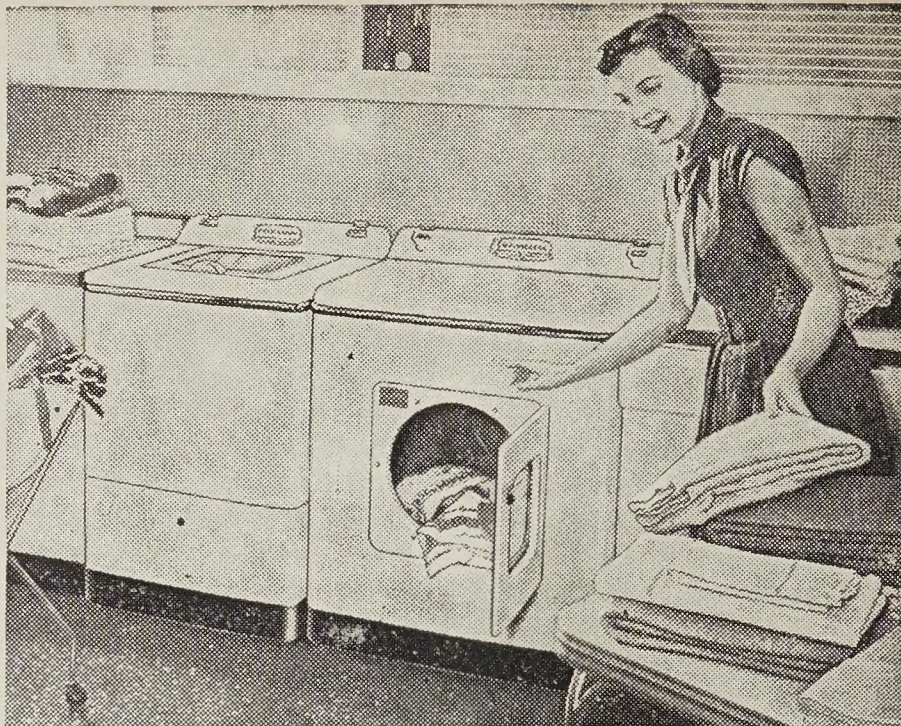


The Principles That Have Electrified Rural America

— See Page 8



ARE YOU WEARY of endless washing . . . toting heavy baskets . . . waiting on the weather . . . hanging clothes in a dingy basement? Beginning now, all this can be changed.

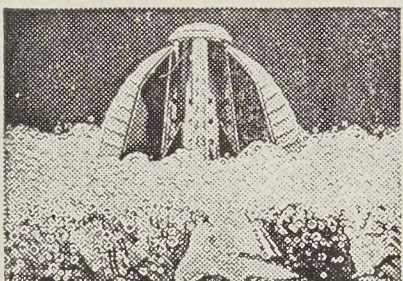


NEW KELVINATOR WAY easily ends the drudgery of old-fashioned washing and drying . . . takes minutes instead of hours a day. In this handsome Automatic Laundry Team, clothes are washed *really clean* . . . dried safely and fluffly-soft . . . whenever you want, at the turn of a dial.

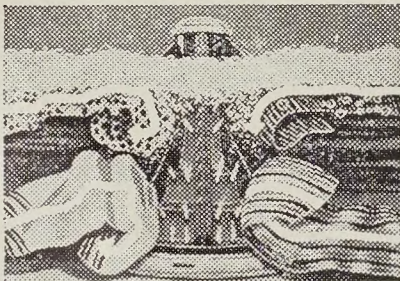
New Way to End Washday Drudgery

with Kelvinator's Automatic Laundry Team!

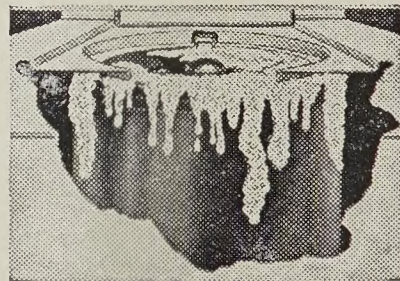
Here's how Kelvinator's new Automatic Washer gets dirty clothes really clean



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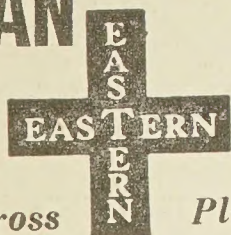
"Eastern Cross even paid the doctor for calling at my home after I returned from the hospital."

"I'm home from the hospital now. You paid my bills promptly. I appreciate being a Charter Member of Eastern Cross Plan."

"Both my wife and myself were in the Presbyterian Hospital at the same time. Our bills totaled \$420.30. I'm thankful for Eastern Cross paying these bills promptly."



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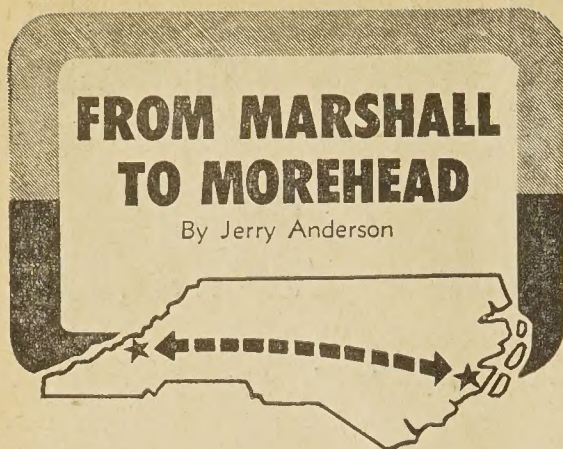
☐ MYSELF

NAME _____ AGE _____

OCCUPATION _____

ADDRESS _____ RFD BOX NO. _____

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____



Seasons come and go, and so do the activities of rural electric cooperatives. As the annual meeting season comes to a close, the co-ops are preparing a variety of other member programs designed to keep you informed about your electric business.

At Mocksville, the finishing touches are being placed on the new Davie EMC movie, *The Co-op Way*. Reports coming to us indicate that it's even better than last year's Davie production. Like its predecessor, the film is designed for showing at community meetings. It will be premiered this month and we hope to be able to bring you a picture story of one of the showings in the December *Farmer*.

At the other end of the state, Four County EMC at Burgaw has built a community meeting program that features movies, slides, charts and just about every other visual aid you can imagine. We've seen this program in action, and can guarantee that any member will know what this electric co-op business is all about after he's attended a meeting.

Similar programs are being arranged by other cooperatives, all of them prepared with you in mind. When you receive a notice that a community meeting is to be held in your area, be sure to circle the date on your calendar. We know you'll be glad you did.

Joseph Dodge, the man who keeps an eye on our national budget, seems to think you folks aren't paying enough interest on your REA loans. Anyway, he has suggested to Mr. Benson that the matter be looked into. We have no doubt that plenty of people will be eager to do the looking. We think they'll find that the government is losing no money on its electrification loans; but that may not be enough to prevent an interest hike. As you know, a bill has already been introduced in the house to double the present two percent rate.

In case you have any doubt about what this would mean to you, we suggest you read Bill Crisp's column on page 26.

REA Administrator Ancher Nelsen will pay another visit to the state on

Continued on Page 24

the Carolina Farmer

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NEWS

Administration Considers REA Interest Hike	11
Benson Reorganizes USDA	13
Unbiased? Better Consult Your Dictionary	18
Power Asks Rate Boost	16

FEATURES

The First Five Months	7
Principles That Have Electrified Rural America	8
Does Your Community Need A Doctor?	10
Mechanical Cotton Harvesting	12
What's Wrong With the Rural Telephone Program?	14
Need Plus Imagination Equal Electrified Farming	17
A Plan For the Study Center	19

DEPARTMENTS

Washington Report	5
News, Tides and Trends	25
Homemaking	20
Editorials	26

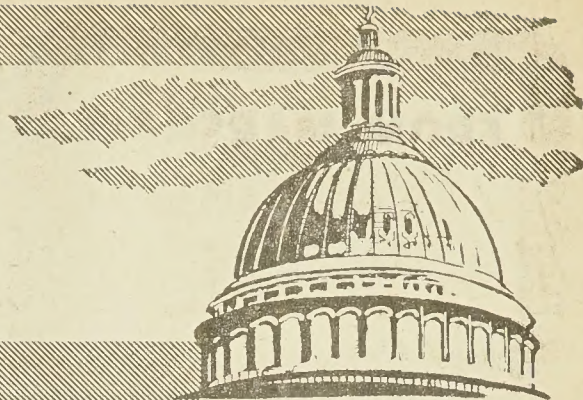
COVER PHOTO By Lewis P. Watson

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THE CAROLINA FARMER

William S. Roberts

REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON



While Interior Department policies are being riddled with criticism at rural electric meetings throughout the country, REA Administrator Ancher Nelsen has attended nine of the ten regional meetings of REA borrowers with varying degrees of success in defending his administration and policies.

Top Interior officials have sent subordinates to these meetings to announce the important changes in criteria for marketing Interior power, and in a sense have lost their shirts in the process. Meantime, Nelsen returns to Washington at the end of the month with a new Oklahoma Stetson hat, Texas cowboy boots, as well as his shirt, pants and coat—if somewhat the worse for wear after hearing some of the frank opinions regarding his generation and transmission policies as well as some of REA's reorganization moves since he took over. There was particular lack of enthusiasm for Nelsen's dream of "more cooperation" between rural electric and telephone co-ops and private utilities at the meetings.

After experiencing the failures of private power and telephone companies to provide service, and continued obstruction throughout the 18 years of REA's history, few shared the REA Administrator's hope that "by working together we can achieve more at less cost."

However, toward the end of the series of regional meetings, Nelsen frankly, as is his custom, admitted that he had learned a lot and revised some of his ideas as he became acquainted with rural electric leaders and their problems throughout the country. There was some evidence of this when he spoke before the U. S. Independent Telephone Association — representing the small telephone firms serving outside big city areas, but strongly influenced by the Bell System—when he appeared in Chicago October 14. He got down to cases with the independents, telling them that under this policy, "Cooperation works both ways and we are entitled to cooperation from the industry in return." He had warned the independent companies that, "We don't propose to sit idly by and see the (rural telephone) job undone. Nor

do we intend to permit a cream-skimming operation to develop that would deprive farmers of the possibility of feasible projects."

Telephone Difficulties

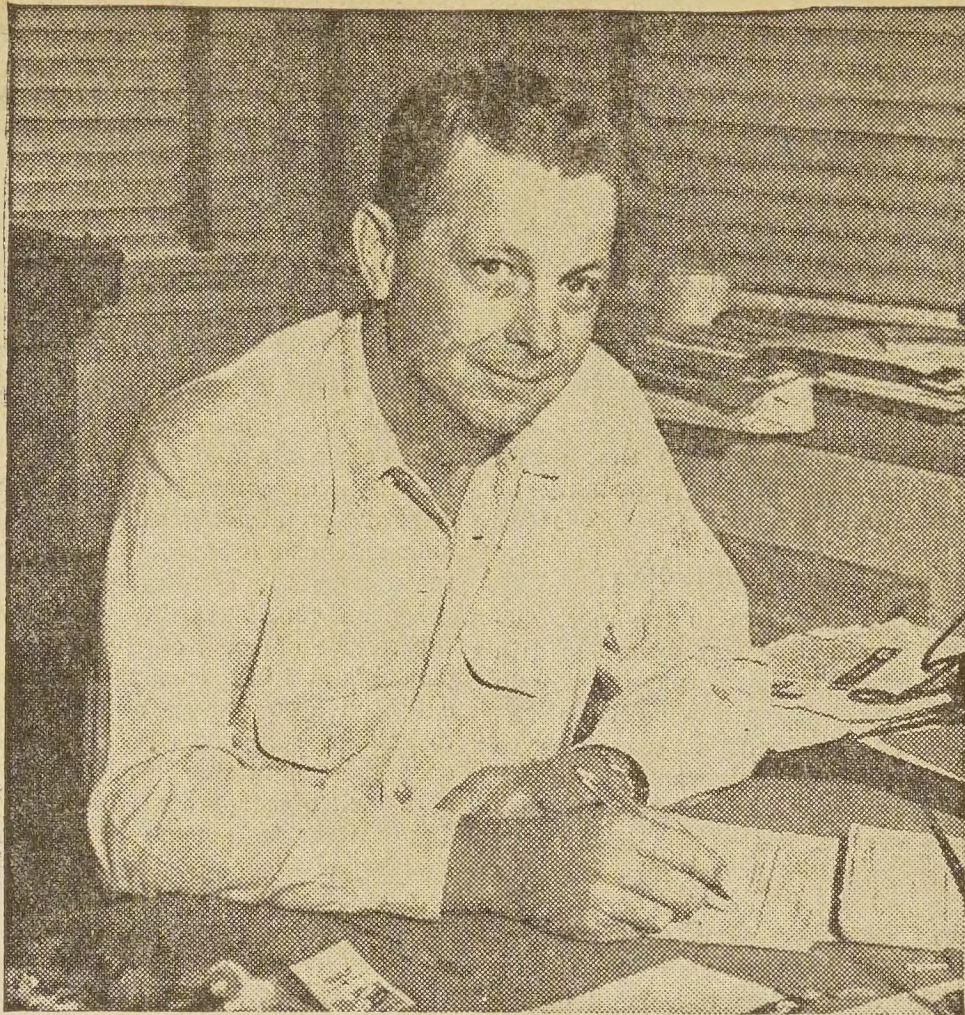
He was leading up to the most difficult problem REA has experienced in the telephone program, particularly in the Southwest, in getting both the Bell System and independents to agree to reasonable financial arrangements for inter-connecting subscribers on new REA-financed telephone lines with nearby communities and long distance exchanges. Some new telephone co-ops as well as small local companies to whom REA has extended loans have been "held up" when they tried to obtain toll agreements with connecting companies. Nelsen bluntly told USITA, "We have approximately 100 exchanges that have not been able to obtain adequate extended area service agreements within the limits of reasonable subscriber rates." He reminded the In-

dependent Telephone officials that their own committee and one set up by the Bell System companies have been ineffectual in arriving at "more reasonable extended area service agreements throughout the country."

Nelsen concluded, "We believe that the failure of some of the larger independents and Bell companies to provide extended area service and toll service to smaller companies and cooperatives on a more equitable basis is indicative of a lack of cooperation on their part. Cooperation is a two-way street. If the larger companies aren't going to give the smaller companies and cooperatives a fair break, there can be no question of the outcome. In this respect, it is important that the independents get together and agree on solutions to some of our basic service problems. A solid front by the independent companies can be of great strength in bringing about some reforms that are absolutely essential if any substantial

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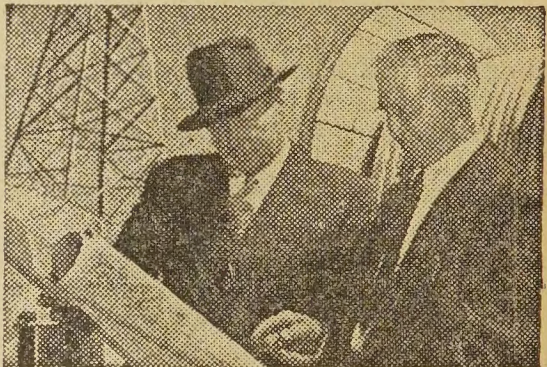




MR. FRANK E. RATTIS, Manager, Southeastern Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation, says:



KAISER ALUMINUM FIELD ENGINEERS help assure on-time delivery of conductor, as they did for Southeastern Indiana "REMC," by keeping a sharp eye on construction schedules. They work right alongside crews, advise on stringing, make practical suggestions to improve techniques, help inspect installation.



KAISER ALUMINUM ENGINEERING SERVICE—Qualified specialists help keep crews up-to-date on latest methods and developments. They recommend solutions to specific construction problems, gladly furnish engineering data, prepare sag and tension charts when required.

"Kaiser Aluminum has often done the impossible for us!"

"Not just once, but several times," says Mr. Ratts, "Kaiser Aluminum representatives have helped us meet construction schedules by doing the impossible in meeting delivery requirements.

"Their engineers have always cooperated in every way. They often have suggested improved methods for applying

and stringing aluminum conductor, also supplying us with sag and tension charts.

"Among the many advantages of aluminum conductor, I particularly commend its ruggedness. We find that ACSR takes ice loadings and the hard knocks of trees with fewer breaks, coming more nearly back to sag."

The following Kaiser Aluminum conductor is accepted by REA:

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Solid: NUMBER	COVERING
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#4	
#2	
Stranded:	
#4-7	3/64"
#2-7	
#1-7	
#1/0-7	4/64"
#3/0-19	

TRIPLEX (Neoprene Covered)	
CODE NAME:	AWG SIZE
Perch	#6
Carp	#4
Shad	#2



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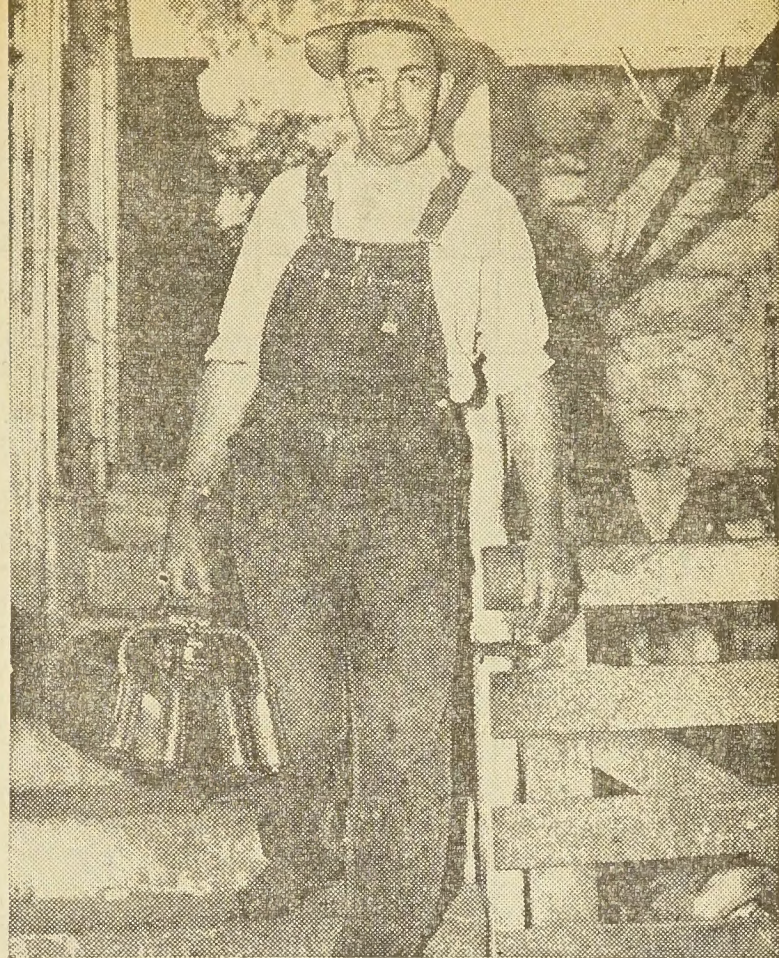
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"My First Five Months"

By ANCHER NELSEN

Rural Electrification Administrator

The record of his administration has been good, says the new head of REA—particularly for the nation's farmers. Here's his own account of the job his "streamlined organization" is doing.



USDA Photo Shows Nelsen on his Minnesota Farm

THE FEDERALLY sponsored rural electrification program has now been under a new administrator for five months, and it is fair to ask what is being done in this program that has brought electricity to so many rural people.

As the new administrator, I am very conscious of that question, and I am convinced that the record is good—particularly good for the farm family.

Here are some things we have done:

- Put more economy into REA operations.
- Speeded up the program to get telephones to farm people.
- Taken care of all sound loan needs for the electric borrowers.
- Begun a careful program for safeguarding all our loans.
- Taken the Government out of borrowers' business wherever possible.

These items, some of them at least, may seem far away from the farmer who flips the switch to begin his morning milking. But actually they are not. That farmer wants to be sure to have power when he does flip his switch, and our program is aimed precisely at that objective.

When we took office, we promised that we would do our best to advance the electric and telephone programs on a sound and economical basis. We believe that rural people are in accord with the President's great objective of national economic stability and we took off from there.

In line with this objective, we set about to streamline our organization. We have cut out many jobs that do

not have a direct bearing on loan security. We have made better use of the abilities of the people on the staff. And we have turned over to our borrowers jobs which are rightfully theirs.

There may be more we can do along this line. But a good start has been made and we will keep going.

Back in 1949, the Congress passed legislation which farm people thought would help them get telephones into their homes. Four years have passed and nearly as many are waiting for telephones now as were then.

We have set about to break the bottleneck.

See Editorial, Page 26

There are problems, many of them, standing in the way of getting telephones ringing on more farms. But these problems will not be solved without a hard-hitting organization that is willing to work both with farm people themselves and with the entire existing telephone industry.

We have completely reshaped our telephone staff and results are already showing up in faster handling of loans and in progress in construction.

We are determined to get all the help we can out of the telephone companies that are now operating. That is what the Congress asked and it is a mandate that makes sense for the farm family.

In the five months since taking office, we have kept pace with the needs of

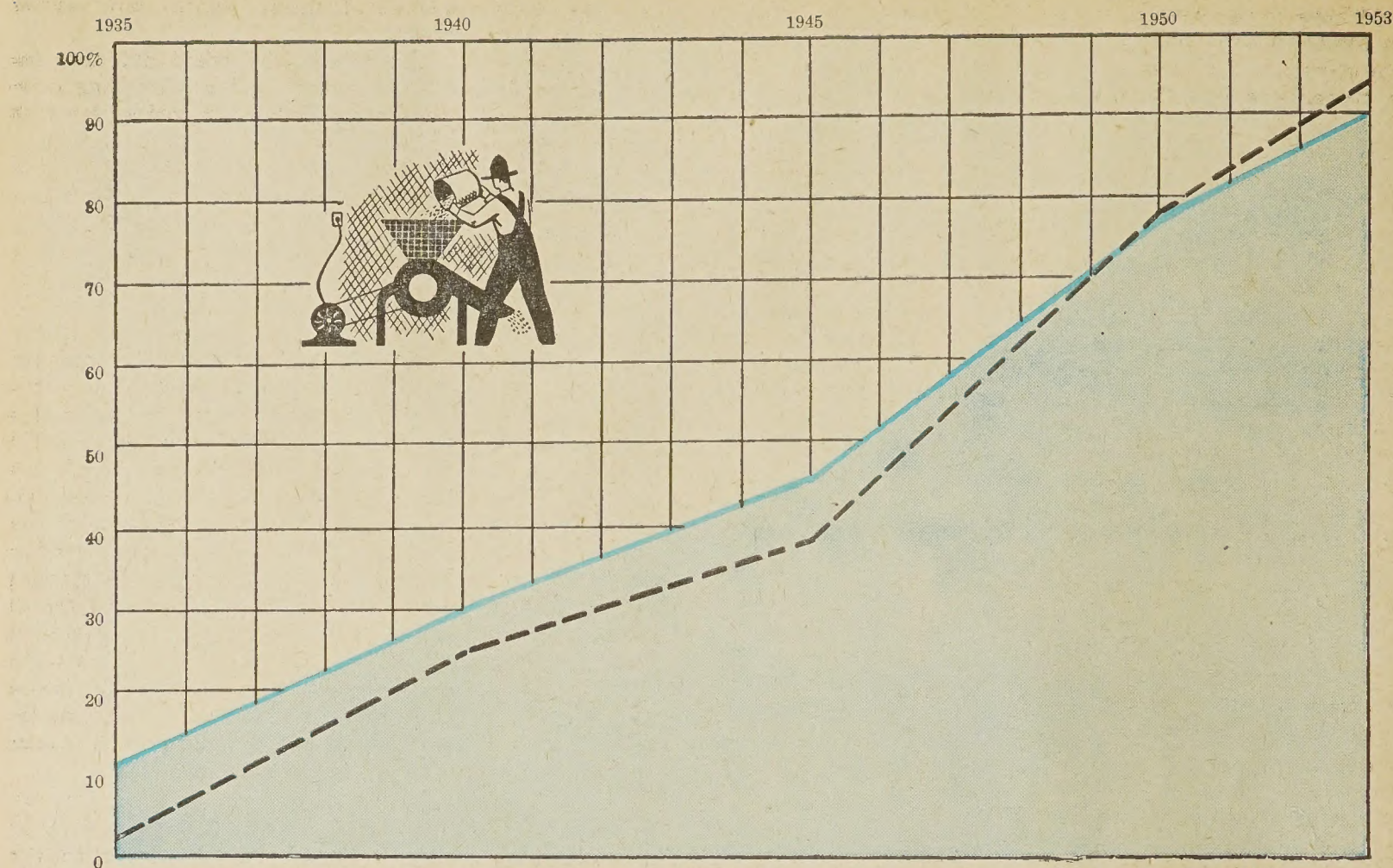
electric borrowers. That means the electric co-ops have been able to do whatever was needed to maintain good service—a bigger transformer, another substation, a transmission line or whatever was required to deliver the power when the consumer needed it.

The Congress has indicated its willingness to provide loan funds for us to lend whenever and wherever needed to maintain electric service. We are determined to carry out this aim and our record of loans so far proves our intent.

We have okayed loans totaling \$77,500,000, which for the five-month period is a higher average than the loan rate for the previous two years.

One of the big concerns in the REA program has been the security of the huge amounts of money Uncle Sam has lent the rural electric systems. Right now the loans amount to more than \$2,750,000,000.

Most of these loans gives us no cause for worry but there are some borrowers on shaky ground, financially. We intend to work with these borrowers to help them get on a sound footing so that they can continue to supply good service to their farmer members. Our objective is to use the experience the 1,000 borrowers have accumulated in the past 18 years in finding the right way to real security. This will make use of practical experience and will enable us to eliminate all the bad effects of Government interference in local businesses.



Graph shows growth of rural electrification since 1935. Heavy blue line represents U.S., broken line N.C.

Area Coverage: *One for all, all for One*

The rural electrification program has been built around this fundamental and dynamic principle

ONE DAY not long ago the manager of an electric membership corporation presented his board of directors with applications for service from two rural families. In considering the first application, the manager and the board had the following discussion:

Manager: This applicant is Tom Kendall. He recently bought two hundred acres off the old Jones estate and has just finished building a home on it over near Piney Church Crossroads.

Board Member: Is Mr. Kendall going to farm this place?

Manager: Yes, he's going to set up a dairy—he'll have a herd of about fifteen cows to start with—and he also plans to raise chickens on a pretty large

Board Member: How much electricity do you figure he will be using?

Manager: Starting off, it won't be over a hundred, maybe 150 kilowatt-hours a month. When he gets going—within the next three or four months—it will jump up to over 1,000 kwh. A year from now he could be using 2,000.

Board Member: What kind of load is that going to put on our line in that area?

Manager: It's probably going to in-

crease the load over the line's present capacity. We've had a build-up taking place in that area for some time now.

Board Member: Were you planning on increasing capacity down there anyhow?

Manager: Yes, but we'll have to do it sooner than we had planned, with Mr. Kendall's load added on now.

Board Member: How far is Kendall's place from our lines?

Manager: Oh, I'd say about seventy-five feet. Our Piney Church line goes right down the road by his house.

The manager and the board then discussed the second application, as follows:

Manager: This next applicant—his name is George Dilland—has been living in our territory since before we were organized, but he never asked for service until two weeks ago. He lives out near Greenlow's Store in Ashley Township.

Board Member: Why hasn't he asked for service before now?

Manager: I asked him the same thing. He and his wife live alone—they're elderly people—about sixty I'd say. He said he hadn't applied for service because he figured the cooperative would make him put up three or four hundred dollars before building a line into his place.

Board Member: Who told him that?

Manager: I asked him that, too. He said nobody had, but that several years ago he tried to get service from the power company—their line runs about three-quarters of a mile the other side of his place—and they told him he

A Note On This Series

The editors believe rural electric cooperatives have done an almost unbelievable job in taking electricity to the farms of America. There are many factors which have contributed to this astonishing record, but we believe success has been possible because from the beginning the program has been pegged solidly to four necessary principles. We have asked Mr. Crisp to write an article on each of them. This one is one the Area Coverage concept; the others will appear in consecutive issues.

would have to pay several hundred dollars for setting the poles and cutting a right-of-way to his house. He figured the cooperative would make a similar proposal.

Board Member: This man obviously hadn't heard how the cooperative operates.

Manager: No, he hadn't. He's not too active—he and his wife stay pretty close to home most of the time. But two of our members went by there the other night on a 'possum hunt. They noticed his old lamp flickering through the window and went in and talked with him for a while. They told him how we operate and that he ought to apply for service. He came in here several days later and we had quite a talk. When he left—after signing the application—he could still hardly believe he would probably get electricity within the next month.

Board Member: How far is Dillard's house from our line?

Manager: Nearly half a mile. We can serve him off the Greenlow Store section.

Board Member: Will building a line that far into his place endanger the cooperative's financial condition?

Manager: No, I've checked it thoroughly. He'll only have lights and a radio—maybe a small refrigerator later on—and he probably won't use much over 25 kwh a month. But we can build to him without impairing the feasibility of our over-all operation. And that's pretty land down that way. Putting a line in there may attract other families to move into the area.

At this point motions were made and unanimously carried accepting both applicants as members of the cooperative and directing the manager to extend service to each as soon as possible.

Thus, in less than five minutes and with a minimum of questioning, electricity was made available to two more rural families. This type of action invariably takes place whenever and wherever a regular cooperative board meeting is held in North Carolina. And underlying this action is a simple, fair and workable principle which has literally brought light into rural America.

It is known as the "area coverage" principle. To fully appreciate how it works, the reader should take careful note of both what **did** and what **didn't** take place when the Kendall and Dillard applications were considered:

First, though Kendall lived close to the cooperative's line and would use a large amount of current while Dillard lived a long distance from the line and would use a minimum of current, **service was extended to both.**

Second, the manager and board of directors accepted without question the obligation of the cooperative not only to extend service to Kendall, but to **improve system facilities earlier than would otherwise have been necessary** so as to assure Kendall and other members in his area of continuing adequate service.

Third, Kendall and Dillard paid the same membership fee, will be billed on the same rate schedule, and will have equal voting rights in controlling the

electric business which now serves them.

And fourth, the board did not consider the exact cost of extending service to each applicant in comparison with the revenues which each would be paying the cooperative for service in the future. The sole test applied was whether extending service to either would endanger the financial condition—"economic feasibility"—of the cooperative's **over-all operation.**

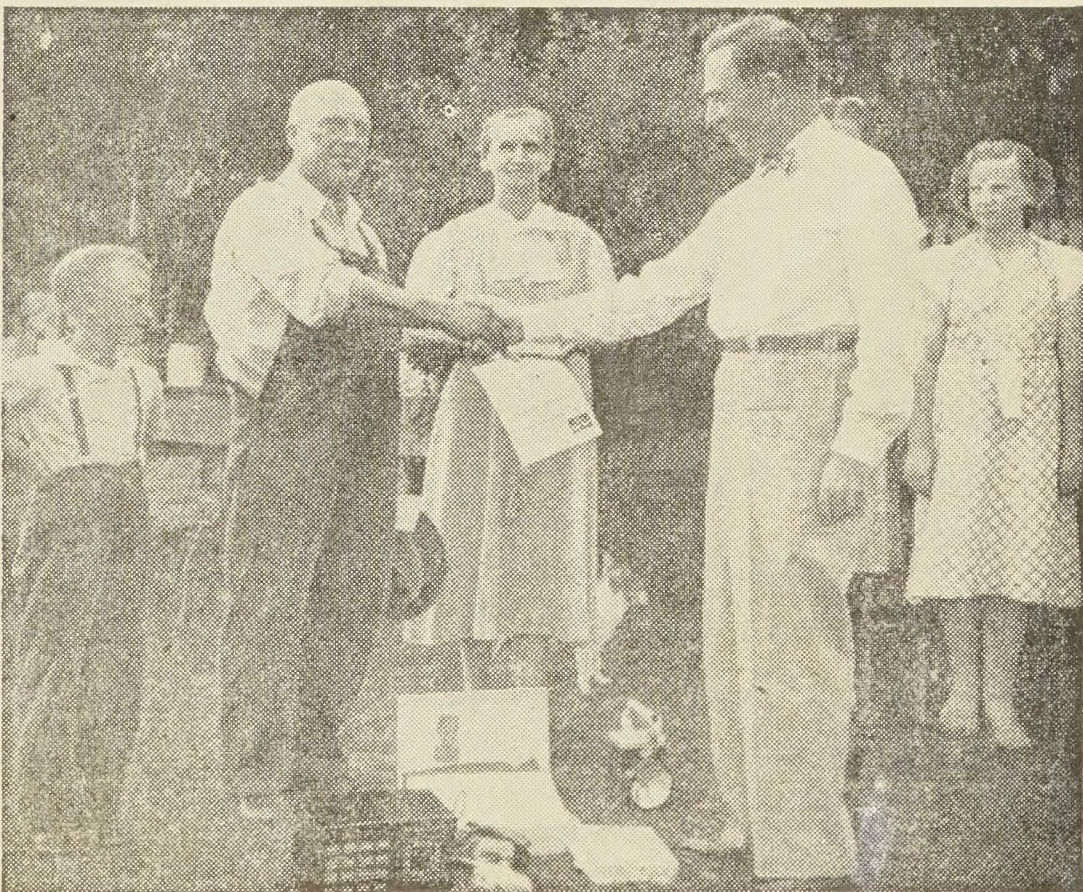
The reader may well ask what is necessary to pass the test of "economic feasibility." Briefly, two conditions must be satisfied: First, of course, the applicant must live somewhere within the geographic territory served by the cooperative's system. And second, extending and maintaining service to the applicant must not be so costly as to endanger the co-op's ability, on existing rate schedules, to operate its over-all system on a sound financial basis. (In Kendall's case the board didn't even raise the issue of feasibility since his closeness to an existing line and his expected high power usage qualified him without question.)

Differences in terrain and other natural factors make the test of feasibility more difficult in some areas than in others. Some cooperatives, therefore, have special provisions for making long-distance extensions which would otherwise not be possible.

The basic difference between the area coverage principle and that ordinarily applied by the commercial power

Continued on Page 24

Ed Yates (left) was the 10,000th member of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation at Lenoir. He lives on a farm high in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Watauga County, probably could never have had electricity without the area coverage principle. Here he is being congratulated by State REA Director Gwyn B. Price, an early advocate of this revolutionary concept in rural electrification.



Administration Considers Interest Hike On REA Loans

Nelsen Issues Strong Opposition Statement

A spokesman for the Rural Electrification Administration has announced that Administrator Ancher Nelsen does not believe interest rates for REA loans should be raised. The statement was made in response to rumors that the agency is considering recommending an increase in interest rates to bring it into line with Eisenhower fiscal policies.

Budget Director Joseph Dodge has stated that the 2 per cent rate of interest on REA loans is "inconsistent" with the 3½ per cent interest rate now being paid on long term government bonds.

The National Farmers Union recently reported to its members that Dodge wrote Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, "In view of current rates paid by the Treasury for long term borrowings, it is appropriate for the department to re-examine all interest rates charged borrowers. Particular attention should be paid to the inconsistency of the 2 per cent rate charged Rural Electrification Administration borrowers, compared to the 3½ per cent paid by the Treasury for long term borrowings."

Reasons for Opposition

The REA spokesman said Nelsen has three reasons for believing the interest rates should not be increased:

1. With 90 per cent of the farms of America electrified the remaining 9 per cent are the most difficult group to reach. An increase in the interest rate would make it increasingly difficult for this group to receive central station electricity through REA loans.

2. Rural telephone co-op margins are thin and while a larger percentage of the country needs telephones it is doubtful if the rural telephone job could be done with a higher interest rate.

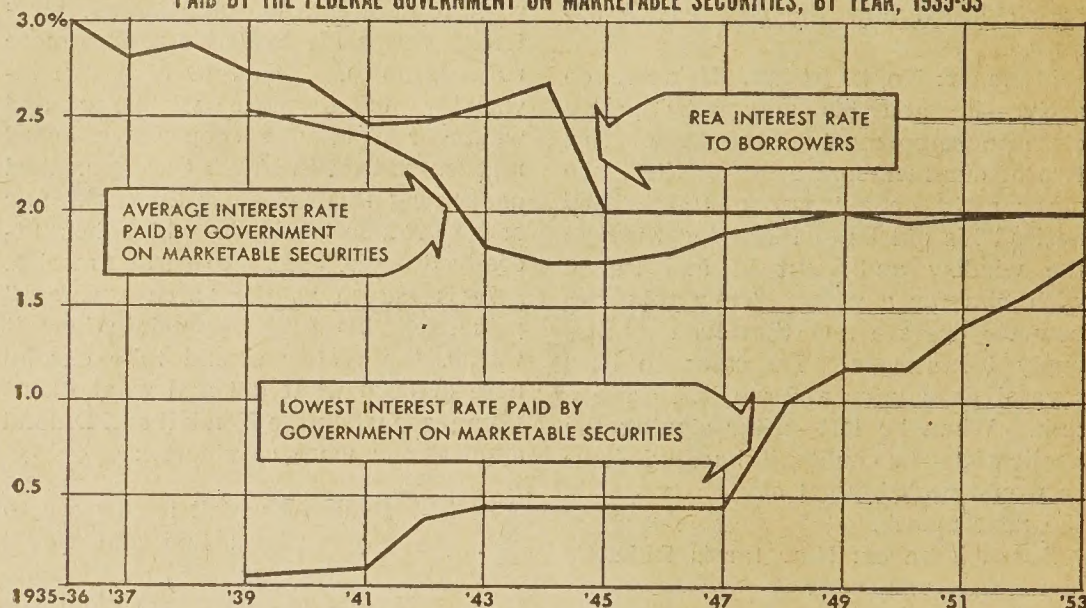
3. Over the years REA feels that no loss has been suffered by the government due to the present interest rate. It is believed that REA has paid its way fully.

It may be necessary for Nelsen to take a stand on the interest issue soon after congress reconvenes in January. Rep. Clardy (R-Mich.) has introduced a bill to double the interest on REA loans (*Carolina Farmer*, July).

Clardy, however, offered no economic justification for his bill, and frankly admitted it was introduced to kill the rural electrification program. In a state-

Continued on Page 18

COMPARISON OF REA INTEREST RATES TO BORROWERS WITH THE AVERAGE AND LOWEST INTEREST RATES PAID BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON MARKETABLE SECURITIES, BY YEAR, 1935-53



THIS GRAPH SHOWS how the interest rate on Rural Electrification Administration loans has compared through the years with the interest rate the government paid on long term bonds. When REA was first established the rate on loans was fixed at 3 per cent. This rate applied only in 1935-36. In 1936 the REA Act provided that the interest rate should be equal to the rate paid by the U. S. on long term bonds during the previous year. Long term bonds were "defined" as those having a maturity date 10 years or more in the future. This fluctuating interest rate applied until September 21, 1944, ranged from a high of 2.88 per cent in 1938 to 2.46 per cent in 1941. During World War II interest rates paid by the government dropped to a low of 38/100 of one per cent, and in 1944 the Pace Act stabilized REA rates at a flat two percent, also extending the repayment period from 25 to 35 years. This rate is in effect now, and will continue unless Congress changes it.

Price Fears Hike Would Increase Rates

Gwyn B. Price, N. C. Rural Electrification Authority head, called on Congress this month to "strongly resist" any attempt to hike interest rates on REA loans. He indicated that such a move could result in higher electric rates for rural consumers and could wreck the young rural telephone program.

The text of the Price statement to *The Carolina Farmer* follows:

"I cannot see how an increase in interest rates on REA loans can be justified. Through the years the government has lost no money on these loans; in fact, for a period of time it is believed that the government created a saving due to the interest rate it had charged at one time.

"For many years after the program went into effect, the interest rate varied according to the amount of interest the government paid on long term securities. In the Pace Act the two per cent rate was settled upon as being

fair to borrowers and the government alike and to enable the farm and rural people in the more sparsely settled areas to receive service.

"We have built a program in North Carolina on the assumption that this rate would continue to prevail. If it is increased, certainly we would need to reassess the program, first in rates to those farm and non-farm families in North Carolina who still do not have electric service and also to see how it would affect our rural telephone program.

"Many rural electric cooperatives would need to re-examine their rate schedules to see if an interest increase would necessitate higher rates. Those working to establish telephone systems would find that higher interest rates would in many cases make the projects unfeasible.

"With these facts in mind, I hope the Congress will strongly resist any attempt to make such an interest."



Typical of the many steering groups across the state who have organized campaigns for betterment of community health is this study committee of the Wayne Community Service Council. The council is composed of a minister, a newspaper reporter, home demonstration club members, school principals. Common interest is necessary if such a group is to be successful.

Does Your Community Need a Doctor?

**Contrary to general belief, many MD's
are anxious to settle in rural areas**

The citizens of progressive little Newton Grove faced a problem confronting many rural people of North Carolina today. They needed a doctor. As has become the custom of the residents of this community, they faced their problem realistically. Around the town conference table, the banker, the pharmacist, the teacher, the farmer sat together and discussed their common need.

From this conference, the townsmen concluded that to attract a good doctor they must have a place for him to practice and a home to house his family. The wheels of progress, based on community cooperation, began to wind and the people began construction of a 12-bed clinic and an attractive modern home to house the doctor they hoped to bring to their community.

Newton Grove got its doctor — and a good one.

Another rural community in the state faced the same keen need for a doctor. To prove their faith in the young doctor they invited to live with them, the citizens went to the community bank and underwrote the young man for \$36,000 to aid him in repaying his educational debts and to give him his start in the medical field.

These are only two examples among many in this state of citizens bann[ing] together in a common effort to attract and keep a good doctor.

Some years back statistics showed that rural people were the nation's healthiest citizens. But a few years later these statistics were completely reversed. The reason: the people were getting away from "black bag medisece" and the progress in medical science had brought about a revolution in both curative and preventive medicine. Doctors were better trained upon their completion of medical schools—but these doctors were flocking to urban centers.

Today there is in progress a great renaissance of the country doctor. Contrary to general opinion, more and more

young men are entering medical colleges with the intention of preparing themselves for the general practice of medicine and with plans to practice in rural communities. Many leading medical colleges in the country are training their students for general practice, rather than specialization.

The rural community CAN attract doctors. But the community which feels a need for a doctor must answer several questions, look at local conditions with the view to improving some of them, before beginning their quest for a doctor. A house-to-house canvass for a look into the community needs and a community meeting are the best starts for this problem.

The first question the community must face is: Does the community REALLY need a doctor—and will it support him? Remember that the days of the horse and buggy doctor are past, and that the general practitioner of today travels in an automobile which carries him rapidly to the bedside of patients many miles away. A few seconds on today's telephone beckons the doctor to the bedside of the ill. It is a good idea to consult with the doctor who has been serving the community, even though he may be a few miles away, to hear his ideas on the advisability of bringing another doctor into the area.

Continued on Page 23



Community auction netted Alexander County citizens \$10,000 for a hospital.



New harvesting principle is used by this machine, manufactured by Harrington Manufacturing Company of Lewiston.

What's The Outlook For Mechanical Cotton Harvesting?

By Gwyn Sutherland And Ester Colvin

U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics

In many parts of the South tractors on farms have reduced somewhat the labor needed to produce cotton. But further reductions in manpower are needed if costs of production are to be substantially reduced, and if cotton is to compete more strongly with other crops for the use of farm resources.

A study of cotton production practices in North Carolina compares the mechanized and non-mechanized methods used in that state. The study was made by J. Gwyn Sutherland of the Bureau of Agriculture, and H. B. James of North Carolina State College.

Here are some of the things they found in the southern Piedmont.

With hand methods, 138 man-hours of labor per acre were needed. When tractor power was used, but weeding, chopping, and harvesting were done by hand, it took 118 man-hours to do the job. But when rotary weeders and mechanical pickers were used, that is, with almost complete mechanization, only 24 man-hours per acre were needed. And when rotary weeders and mechanical strippers were used, the work was done with 22 man-hours per acre.

It is true that the saving in labor was partly, or even completely, offset by other costs associated with mechanization. The difference depends upon the prevailing wages paid hand labor and the cost and amount of use of the harvesting equipment.

The costs associated with mechanization include field and grade losses and

additional ginning charges for mechanically harvested cotton.

When mechanical pickers were used, the field loss of cotton was about 12 per cent of the total yield and the grade loss amounted to about 2 cents per pound of lint. With mechanical strippers, the field loss was about 7 per cent of the total yield and the grade loss was about 6 cents per pound of lint. Additional ginning charges made for mechanically harvested cotton added to the cost. These additional charges were about 14 cents a bale for mechanically picked cotton and about \$3.60 a bale for mechanically stripped cotton. The field and grade losses of cotton and the additional ginning charges amounted to \$40 an acre when mechanical strippers were used and to \$34 an acre when mechanical pickers were used.

Economy Depends On Size

The larger the acreage of cotton, the higher the yields, and the more bales harvested per machine, the lower is the cost per bale. Costs of hand harvesting do not vary in this way, although the rate paid for picking may change during the harvesting season.

Thus hand picking at \$4 per 100 pounds of seed cotton picked was more economical than mechanical picking on less than 120 acres yielding 337 pounds of lint per acre. But hand picking at that rate was less economical than mechanical stripping when more than 36

acres were harvested per mechanical stripper.

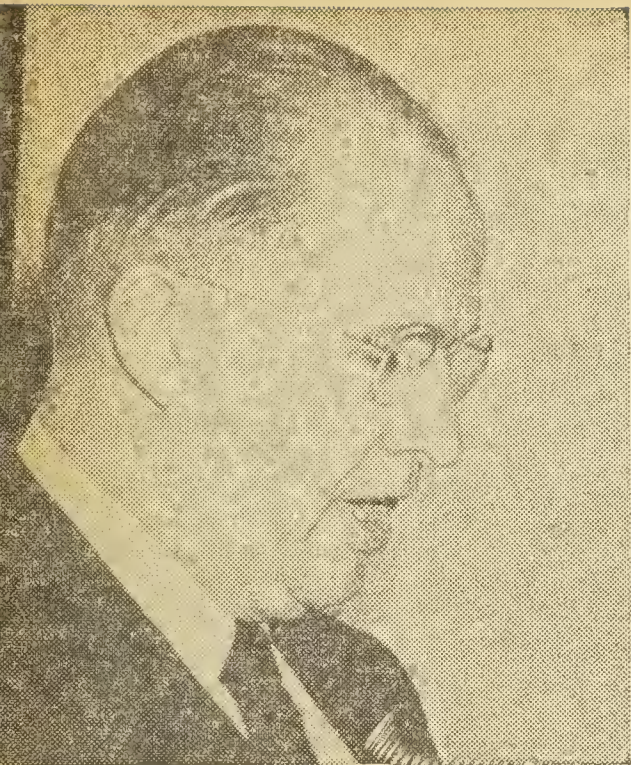
With a mechanical stripper used only for gleaning or scrapping in cotton yielding 100 pounds of lint per acre, mechanical stripping was more economical than hand picking at \$5 per hundred when more than 40 acres were handled in this way.

Not so many farms in North Carolina, particularly in the Piedmont, have acreages of cotton large enough to justify the purchase and use of mechanical pickers. Custom harvesting may be the solution for small farmers.

How do the per acre costs of the different methods of producing cotton compare? Here are some of the costs.

In cotton yielding 495 pounds of lint per acre, and using animal power only and with hand labor used to weed, chop, and harvest the cotton, estimated costs, exclusive of costs of land, capital and management, were \$104 an acre in the southern Piedmont. Net returns to the farmer for the land, capital and management used came to approximately \$90 an acre. With rotary weeders and mechanical strippers, the cost per acre dropped to \$55. It was a little higher—\$66 an acre—when rotary weeders and mechanical pickers were used. But the gross value of line and seed was less when mechanical harvesters were used because of field and grade loss and ad-

Continued on Page 18



Farm leaders voice praise, criticism as

Benson Reorganizes USDA

Controversial plan goes into effect against a backdrop of skidding farm prices, a surprising election result, a cattlemen's march and angry words from conservation leaders

IT WAS a big month for the farmer. For a few weeks he had something to think about besides drought, skidding farm prices and higher costs.

It really began in Wisconsin on September 15—in the 9th Congressional district. The 9th is a farm district in the heart of the great Wisconsin dairy country. It gave President Eisenhower an overwhelming majority last November and had never sent a Democrat to Congress.

But on September 15 the farmers of the district rocked the country by electing a Democrat in a special election. A few days later a reporter was around asking why. It didn't take long to find out.

One farmer had just sold a 1,616 pound cow for \$145—about 9 cents a pound; last November she would have brought twice that for beef, \$350 as a milk cow. Another had sold five head of springer cows for \$800; a year ago they would have brought \$1,600. The cost of having feed ground had gone up a few days before from 5 cents to 7 cents.

The farmers of the 9th were uneasy and apprehensive. A few weeks before they had sat in stony silence as Agriculture Secretary Benson assured them everything was all right on the farm front. Everything seemed far from all right to them, and they went to the polls determined to say so as loudly as they could.

Benson was in trouble after the votes were counted. Strategists in both parties analyzed the result as clear proof that farmers had no confidence in him. Politicians on both sides demanded his resignation.

Benson stood his ground, and on October 13 made a counterattack. It had been open knowledge that he intended to reorganize the Department of Agriculture,

and on that date he formally presented his plan. It proposed to abolish PMA as an agency, transferring the bulk of its duties to a new one called Commodity Stabilization Service, and to abolish the regional offices of the Soil Conservation Service. Part of the SCS responsibilities would be shifted to the Forest Service, and state offices would shoulder more responsibility for administering the remainder.

In a statement accompanying the proposal Benson emphasized that the reorganization would not go into effect until "there has been further opportunity for comments from interested parties." Such comments, he said, should be made before November 1.

There were plenty of comments, especially about the Soil Conservation plan. Officials of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts charged that the program was being "riddled". Abolishment of the regional offices, they said, would seriously curtail the technical help available to the overall conservation program. They said the state plan had already been tried and had failed.

The Cattlemen Arrive

In the midst of this, several hundred midwestern cattlemen arrived in Washington on chartered busses to protest the drop in cattle prices. Their caravan had been organized by the Farmers Union, long a supporter of controls and high parity. The cattlemen demanded that Benson support the price of cattle at 90 per cent of parity. Their dramatic "march" attracted nationwide attention and once again Benson was in the middle of a heated controversy.

He met several times with the angry cattlemen, but told them plainly that it was next to impossible to support cattle prices. The reasons, he said, were simple: there had never been a workable plan advanced for controlling the pro-

duction of cattle, a necessary adjunct to price support; and what would the department do with the meat it would have to buy at support prices? Besides that, he was convinced that most cattlemen did not want supports.

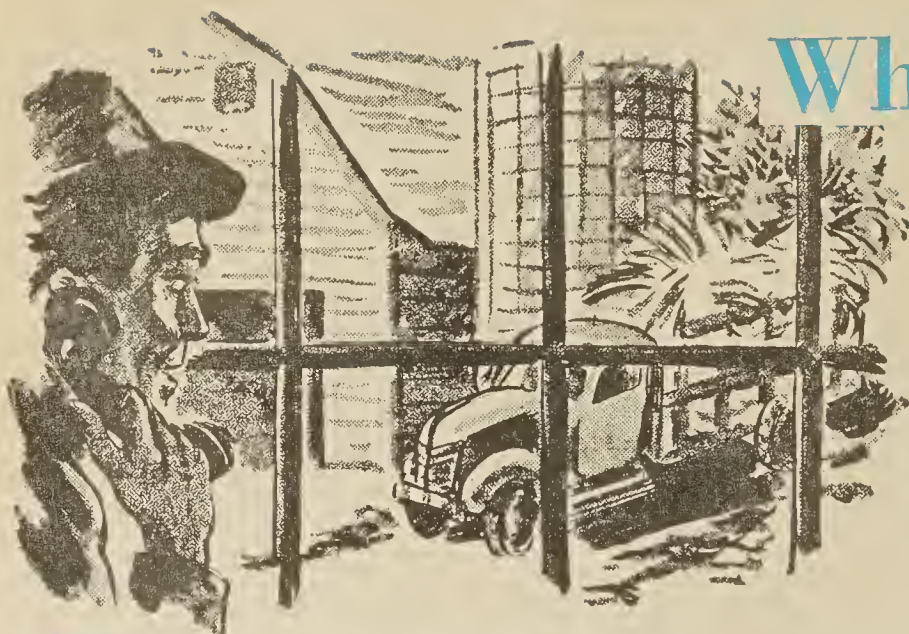
Again cries went up for Benson's scalp. But the secretary did not budge from his stand, and he was backed by President Eisenhower. As the storm began to subside, agricultural leaders remembered that it was almost time for the controversial reorganization plan to go into effect. Representative Clifford Hope (R-Kan.), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and the GOP's top agricultural expert, indicated that the reorganization plan should be held up at least until Congress reconvened in January. Representative Bender (R-Ohio) formally requested Benson not to revamp Soil Conservation until his government operations subcommittee had a chance to hold hearings on it in November.

But the dust from the high heels of the cattlemen had barely settled when Benson announced on November 2 that the reorganization would be effective immediately. At the same time he blasted as "misleading and unfounded" the charges made by the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He accused leaders of that organization of spreading "actual falsehoods".

The conservation program would be more effective than ever under the new set up, he said, and a memorandum of understanding had been signed with each Soil Conservation District.

The reaction was immediate and loud. Representative Bender announced that Benson would be called before his committee to answer questions about "his controversial plan". Senator Aiken (R-Vt.) said Benson "did well". Other lawmakers and governors seemed to split about evenly on the issue.

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What's Wrong With T

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What's wrong with the rural telephone program?

That is one of the questions heard most frequently at farm gatherings throughout the state. And farmers have good reason for asking it. As 1953 nears an end, less than 15 per cent of them have telephones of any sort; and a sizable portion of that small percentage have antiquated, inefficient telephone systems.

In 1920, 12.2 percent of North Carolina's farmers had telephones. During that 33-year interval, the percentage has managed to rise only slightly more than two points. Most farmers say they want telephones. Telephone companies, almost without exception, boast of their rural expansion program. In areas where these companies won't expand, farmers can set up their cooperatives and build their own systems, just as they built their own electric systems. For four years now, financing for such cooperative projects has been available from the Rural Electrification Administration.

Then there are mutual companies, and private lines—in all, more than 40 organizations, who are in the business of providing telephone service in North Carolina. But still less than 15 percent of North Carolina's farmers have telephones today.

What's wrong? Let's take a look.

Look first at a farmer named John Jones. He lives 12 miles from his county seat, three miles from a well-settled crossroads community. He wants—and needs—a telephone. So, also, do the people in the community. They hold a meeting at the school house and invite John Jones and his neighbors. At the meeting petitions are signed asking the independent telephone company serving the county seat to extend its lines. The company investigates, hedges, finally tells the group it cannot expand "right now."

Time passes. The Rural Telephone Act becomes law, providing financing for the telephone company if it will build rural lines, for a telephone cooperative if it will not. John Jones and his neighbors begin talking about forming a cooperative. Finally, the telephone company sends representatives into the area to say the company will build a line to the crossroads community, but no further. This dampens the enthusiasm for the cooperative, and after fighting their consciences, the community people sign with the company. The line is built, cutting the heart out of the proposed cooperative. John Jones and his neighbors up the road are left without telephones, and without any hope of ever getting one.

Interconnection Difficulties

Look now at Sam Smith. His circumstances are identical with those of John Jones, with one exception: the telephone company serving his county seat refuses to build lines farther than two miles from the town. With the help of the county agent and the manager of his rural electric cooperative, Sam begins the preliminary work toward establishing a cooperative. Representatives of the Rural Electrification Administration and the N. C. Rural Electrification Authority are called in. Surveys are made, applications taken.

The surveys indicate that a cooperative can be successful with a guaranteed monthly bill of \$4.00 per member. Part of the prospects fall out at this point, contending the bill is too high for them to pay. Enough stay, however, and the cooperative is officially organized and makes application for an REA loan to begin construction. The application is finally approved, subject, of course, to a workable interconnection agreement with the local telephone company.

And that's the rub, as Sam and his friends soon discover. Telephones will

do them no good unless they can connect with the phones in the county seat. The telephone company there tells them it will cost a lot of money to install connection equipment, and that it has no obligation to spend the money, particularly since the company will be receiving no revenue from the farmers. The cooperative, which will have to install switching equipment of its own, cannot also provide it for the telephone company.

A solution is offered: the company will install the equipment if the members of the cooperative will pay a toll charge on every call they make into town. The members, of course, refuse to pay such a charge. They argue there is a natural "area of interest" between the town and the countryside around it; that the best interests of one group cannot be divorced from the other and that as many calls will be made from town to country as from country to town. The company refuses to recognize the area of interest.

Progress is stymied and negotiations drag on endlessly. Many farmers become disgusted and forget the whole thing, joining those who balked originally at the \$4.00 charge. Finally the company makes another offer: the switching equipment necessary for interconnection will be installed for a flat monthly fee from each subscriber of the co-op system—say, 60 cents per month if the company installs automatic equipment, \$2.50 if the equipment is manual. This amount adds on to the \$4.00, making a monthly bill of at least 4.60. Taxes will bring this to something like \$5.10 per month just for local service. The cooperative reluctantly agrees to this arrangement, but finds many members hesitant when the final sign-up time comes. Sam and his neighbors settle down for another period of waiting, this time to see if the project is going to be feasible as it finally shapes up.

What's wrong with the rural tele-

The Rural Telephone Program?

1 per cent of North Carolina's farmers have
increase of only two per cent since 1920. With
companies providing service and the Rural Tele-
years old, this record seems ridiculous to
waited . . . and waited . . . and waited



phone program?

We've asked a great many people and received a great many answers. Piecing all these bits of informed opinion together and fitting them into the pattern of facts that are on record, the following picture emerges:

First of all, farmers do want telephones, but until recently they had little idea of what a phone would cost, even through a cooperative organization. When they learn that the initial membership fee will be somewhere between thirty and fifty dollars and the monthly bill for local service will be around five dollars, many of them reconsider. Under these circumstances the value of the telephone must for the first time be balanced against its cost.

A similar problem is that many farm people want a telephone in their community more than they want it in their own home. If a neighbor has a phone, a doctor or a veterinarian can be called from there. This attitude results in fewer phones per mile and accordingly increases the cost to those who do take telephone service.

Some of the fault, then, lies with the farm people themselves. But those who have worked with them in promoting rural telephones insist that most responsible farmers are genuinely eager for service and are willing to work to get it.

This means that companies engaged in providing service must shoulder the major responsibility for our lack of progress. Why have they so consistently failed to expand into rural areas?

Part of the answer undoubtedly lies in the fact that there are so many small companies operating within the state. Many of these companies have been unable to supply satisfactory service to the towns in their areas, much less expand into the countryside. This problem of small company financing was fully recognized when the Rural Telephone

Act was passed in 1949; because of it, provision was made in the Act to give preference to the commercial companies in the first year of telephone loan allocations. That is, loans could not be made to telephone cooperatives until the existing companies had opportunity to take advantage of the long-term, low-interest loans.

Most of the companies, however, passed up this opportunity for rural expansion. Fiercely proud of their identities, always living in the shadow of the mammoth Bell organization, they objected to the mortgage feature of the loan contract. Of the forty commercial telephone organizations in the state, only six have shown any real interest in obtaining REA loans for rural expansion.

Statistics Can Be Misleading

Most of the limited progress that has been made has been due to the efforts of the Southern Bell Company and one or two of the other large companies. In some areas of the state Southern Bell has done a creditable job and has usually worked with cooperative groups better than the others.

Statistics on the number of farm telephones installed by commercial companies often tend to be misleading, however. The North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority (which also works with telephone groups) defines a rural telephone as any phone outside the corporate limits of a town or city, while a farm telephone is one located on a tract of land of three or more acres which produces agricultural products of at least \$150 in value. Thus, while it is not uncommon for telephone companies to provide service in heavily populated suburban areas, this does not necessarily mean that the service is actually going to farmers.

Seven farmer-owned telephone cooperatives have been chartered in North

Carolina. They are in varying stages of development and all of them have had to fight the interconnection battle which confronted Sam Smith and his friends. And it is this battle that currently has the rural telephone program stymied.

The commercial companies refuse to recognize the logic of the "area of interest" proposal. Most of them, however, have discarded toll charge demands and set up a schedule of flat monthly payments for interconnection privileges. This charge usually amounts to 46 cents per month for an interconnection with a Bell system, considerably more for other companies except Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, which has adopted the Bell charges. Chief objection of farm leaders to this plan is that the payment is a continuing obligation, even after the cost of switching equipment has been returned.

What is needed now to breath life into this program? Walter Fuller, director of rural telephones for the N. C. REA, thinks everyone concerned must recognize four basic principles before area coverage telephones can become a reality:

(1) A telephone conversation is of equal value to both parties, regardless of which places the call.

(2) All telephone companies in the state need to recognize the "area of interest" principle, regardless of which is providing service in a particular area.

(3) It is absolutely necessary that fair and equitable contracts for interconnection be entered into by groups providing telephone service.

(4) Telephone companies must realize that it is only after they fail to provide rural service that cooperatives are formed.

Certainly recognition of Fuller's principles would clear the air.

Power Company Asks \$200,000 Rate Boost

Virginia Electric and Power Company has asked the State Utilities Commission for authority to increase rates for its North Carolina consumers by approximately \$200,000 per year. The company, which does most of its business in Virginia, serves some 36,000 customers in 22 northeastern North Carolina counties.

In application filed October 27 VEPCO claimed it is not making an adequate profit under present rates and needs a better return to "enable the company to market its securities on favorable terms to raise the funds necessary for the large continuing construction program." Similar applications have been filed in Virginia and West Virginia.

If the three states approve the rate increase, VEPCO said its annual profits will be increased by \$2,200,000.

The proposed rate increase will not effect the "wheeling" contract under which VEPCO transmits Kerr Dam power to five northeastern electric cooperatives.

Cows and Christmas

Continued from Page 20

umbrella, 7" across the top, and 4" across the bottom. If plaid or striped material is used, cover should be cut on the bias. Place wrong sides of material together, stitch seam, leaving 3" opening at top. Turn stitch again to form French seam. Hem lower edge. Add a ruffle at the top, by cutting two circles of material 8" in diameter and split one side. Cut circle 2" in diameter in center of ruffle. Place right sides of material together, sew, and turn. Finish outer edge with top stitching or bias tape. Sew ruffle to umbrella cover, placing split to coincide with placket opening. Cut facing 7" wide for top of cover. Sew facing to cover. Turn facing down over ruffle edge and stitch. Hem placket edges. Fasten placket opening with hook and eyes.

A case for rubbers, to match the umbrella case, can be made by cutting pieces of cotton bag material 8½" by 18". Fold in half lengthwise. Stitch sides, leaving open about 3½" from upper edge. Hem side edges left open. Turn upper edges down 1½" and stitch. Make another row of stitching about ½" above this to form casing for cords. Cut 2 cords about 27" long. Insert cords in casing. Bag may be lined with any water repellent fabric.

Doll Clothes. Simplicity pattern No. 4509 includes directions for making one-piece dress, pinafore, pajamas, coat, and hat, peasant blouse and skirt, shirt and overalls. Patterns may be bought for 14", 16", or 22" doll.

"UNEQUALLED IN ALL THE HISTORY OF FINANCE..."

A Statement by Representative Don Magnuson of Washington

"I can put the REA haters in the 83rd Congress on notice right now that if they continue to follow their obvious design of destroying the REA, retribution will be no further away than November, 1954.

"The carefully calculated design of destruction is not a frontal assault. The tools of the private power monopoly are too cunning to make that mistake. Instead, they are using such devices as the one employed—successfully—against the rural electric cooperatives in the Southwest in the 1953 session of the 83rd Congress.

"This device, indirect and therefore the more insidious, was to withhold funds from the Southwestern Power Administration and to impose certain restrictions on the use of funds which were appropriated. The all but fatal blow to the Southwest was a provision that the SPA could not use any of its funds for implementing power contracts with electric cooperatives.

"It was done in the familiar guise of economy, of course, and a falser guise never saw the light of day. For the REA is a lending program, not a spending program. And the rural electrics have a repayment record unequalled in all the history of finance. They are repaying their loans—with interest—not only on time, but ahead of time."

Benson Reorganizes USDA

Continued from Page 13

In answer to the "falsehoods" charge, President Waters S. Davis, Jr., of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts wired the chairmen of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees:

"In view of the public statement by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson challenging the integrity of national officers of this Association, I respectfully ask opportunity to lay documented evidence before your Committee proving that Benson and his aides themselves are guilty of most serious misrepresentation and falsification of facts."

Benson himself seemed to remain calm throughout the hectic month. As he announced the reorganization he said his plan to put it into immediate effect had the full approval of the President. He indicated he still had no intention of resigning, but said "The President

will have no resistance if he ever wants to make a change."

In addition to the Soil Conservation changes, the USDA reorganization does the following:

—Regroups the various research bureaus in the present Agricultural Research Administration into an integrated Agricultural Research Service.

—Establishes an Agricultural Marketing Service which will absorb a major part of the marketing, research and service functions of the PMA and many of the functions of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

—Establishes a Commodity Stabilization Service which will carry on adjustment and other functions formerly handled by the PMA such as acreage allotments and marketing quotas, and carry on price support operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

—Retains the present state, county and community PMA committees to carry out the work of the new agency.

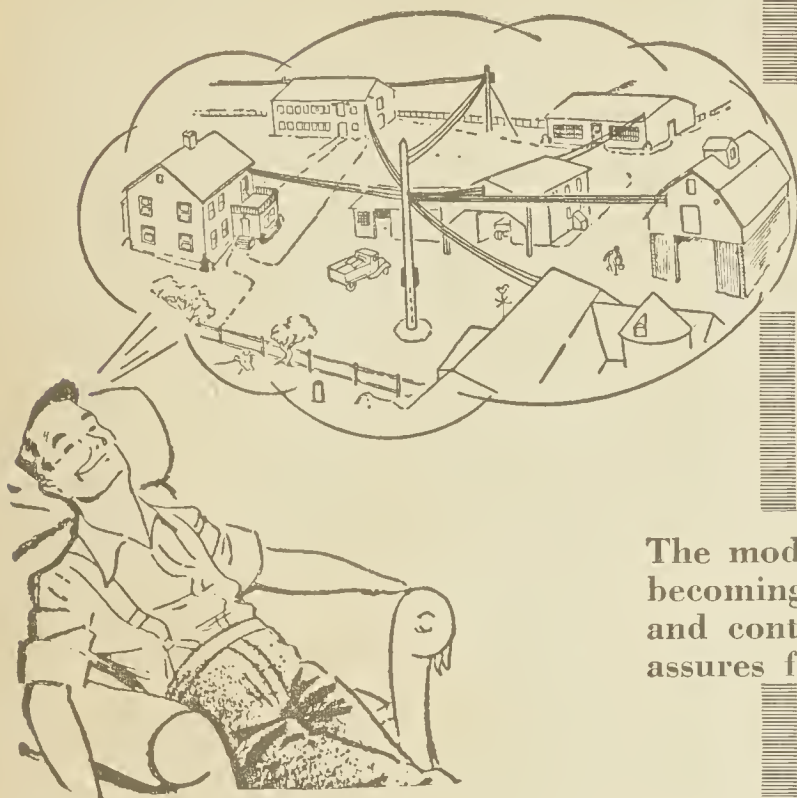
—Transfers other PMA functions to other services.

Most of the other agencies of the Department retain their present duties, though some of them have been changed in organization. There is no change in the functions of the Rural Electrification Administration or Farmer's Home Administration.

North American farmers expect to produce about 1,785,000,000 bushels of wheat this year, 214,000,000 less than in 1952.



Need Plus Imagination=Electrified Farming



The modern farm is fast becoming industrialized; and continuing research assures future progress

AN EDITOR challenged us the other day to put our finger on the farmer shown in a group photograph of farm and non-farm businessmen. We guessed wrong, and so did everyone else who saw the picture. The editor got across his point. There isn't any difference. They're all business men.

Modern farming in North Carolina today is as much of an industry as a city factory. No longer is electric power the novelty it once was. With more than 90 per cent of our farms fully electrified many of the old "muscle power" farming methods are being chucked out the window.

Today's farmer is putting his hard-won electricity to work in many ways, and is reaching out for additional uses—all calculated to further the industrialization of his chores. Here are some of the newer electrical applications—some still on the drawing board, others already in production.

Tramp Iron Detector-rejector—Metal in forage can cause "hardware sickness" in cows. To detect and eliminate such things as pieces of bailing wire and fencing in field forage harvester operations is a problem. It is being solved, however, by means of an electric unit located on the blower pipe of the harvester. The unit detects the metal in the air stream, opens a trap door in the pipe and ejects it.

Silage elevator—Blowing chopped forage into silos and mows is a heavy job which often requires tractor power. The same chore, however, may be done with newly developed, special type eleva-

tors operated by 5hp. motors, according to tests still going on at an eastern agriculture college.

Pig battery brooder—A two-deck battery brooder has been developed to accommodate 20 pigs. It is equipped to feed the pigs synthetic sows' milk and has a 10-compartment feed trough on each deck. Two 300-watt heating units provide the brooder with heat.

Tobacco grading lights—North exposure daylight is the only source of light considered suitable for the accurate job of grading tobacco. Obviously this job could not be done on cloudy days, or at night. At least that's the way it used to be. Recent tests in Virginia, however, have shown that proper daylight grading conditions can be duplicated—day and night—through the use of two-lamp fluorescent fixtures. One of the tubes in the fixture is a white lamp; the other is a daylight lamp. Many North Carolina farmers who tried this fixture during the current tobacco season were well pleased with the resulting improvement in grading.

Insect light traps—A variety of light traps are in the experimental stage in North Carolina. They ranged from expensive, manufactured units to simple homemade traps. Preliminary results indicate great promise in controlling the tobacco horn worm.

And this is only the beginning. Experiments are going on across the country to provide farmers with the know-how and the equipment to help take some of the risks out of farming and place on the market the best in agricultural produce.

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Cotton Harvesting

Continued from Page 12

ditional ginning charges. With strippers, returns to the farmer for the use of his land, capital, and management were \$99 and with pickers, \$94 an acre.

Thus the key to successful mechanization of cotton production is economical mechanical harvesting. Mechanical harvesters are expected to be greatly improved. Ginning and cleaning equipment that will further improve the grade of roughly harvested cotton are expected to be developed. A successful chemical defoliant that will remove the leaves from the cotton plant before harvesting will doubtless be found. It is therefore probable that most of the problems associated with mechanical harvesting of cotton will be solved and that the trend will be toward complete mechanization of cotton production throughout the Cotton Belt.

Machines Will Replace Labor

These improvements in methods and equipment will not come overnight. Nor will the increase in mechanization of cotton mean rapid displacement of labor. Rather, the machines will move in to take the place of labor that has already moved out.

Of course, many small cotton farms in North Carolina will not be able to mechanize. Operators of these farms may find it advisable to shift to production of other crops or livestock that can be produced economically with animal and hand labor.

But many of the larger farms will mechanize completely and will produce their cotton more efficiently. Although the total acreage of cotton in the State may decline further, yields probably will increase.

When production of cotton is fully mechanized, cotton will be better able to compete with other crops and with livestock for the use of land, capital, and management. But the farms on which complete mechanization can be expected generally will be those that have acreages of cotton large enough to justify the purchase and use of mechanical harvesters.

REA Loans

Continued from Page 11

ment he said: "I am opposed to the whole — — REA field. Abolishing the program would be futile . . . I'm too much of a political realist for that and wouldn't try to abolish it . . . An increase in interest rates is the next best thing."

"UNBIASED"?—Better Consult Your Dictionary

Or: A word is a word is a word

NEW STORM warnings went up for rural electrification and the Tennessee Valley Authority last month as the result of a television program called "The Big Issue." The "issue" was Federal Government participation in electric power programs. The debaters were Clarence Manion, Eisenhower appointee to head a commission to determine what Federal functions should be turned over to states, and William C. Wise, former Deputy Administrator of REA.



William C. Wise

Manion kicked off the discussion by declaring, "I think the TVA should be sold to private enterprise." As Wise caught the ball and started running it back, the following dialogue ensued:

Wise: "Do you agree with my favorite Republican of all time that the government should do for the people that which they cannot do for themselves or that which they cannot do so well for themselves?"

Manion: "No, I do not agree with Abraham Lincoln."

Wise: "Do you agree that the government should take action to protect and advance for the general welfare of all the people to the greatest good for the greatest number?"

Manion: "No, I don't."

Wise: "Do you think anyone other than the government could have done what the government has done during the past 20 years, with specific reference to TVA?"

Manion: "I think the TVA should be sold to private business."

Wise: "Do you think private business would have built TVA projects in the first place?"

Manion: "I don't think the Federal Government should have built the TVA in the first place."

Wise: "Are you familiar with the benefits which have accrued to the people of that valley, or which they think have accrued to them?"

Manion: "I am familiar with the statistics which are quoted that we flooded 800 thousand acres of land to prevent a flood of 900 thousand acres which would have happened once every 500 years."

Wise: "Do you believe that statement?"

Manion: "Well, I have seen it printed without contradiction."

Wise: "I deny it categorically."

Manion: "Then we both deny it categorically."

Wise then shifted to the rural electrification program.

Wise: "Do you believe that, anyone other than the Federal government could have brought about the rural electrification program, which has increased electrification of America's farms from 10 per cent to 90 per cent since 1935?"

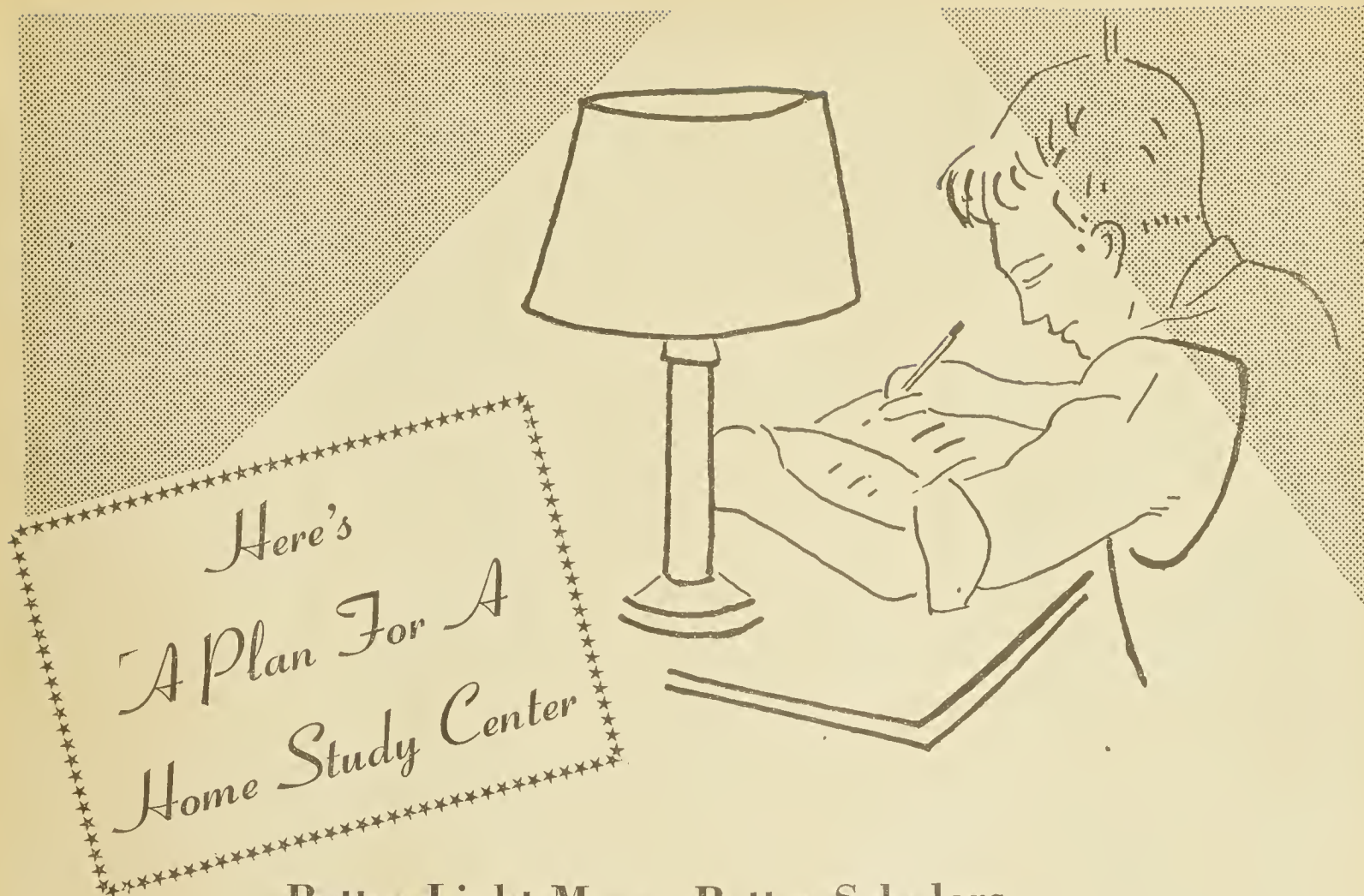
Manion: (After considerable hedging) "I certainly do."

The commission Dr. Manion heads is supposed to make a non-partisan review of functions of the Federal Government, considering the effect as well as the desirability of abandoning Federal programs, presumably including TVA, REA and other electric power activities.

Gilbert A. Harrison, publisher of *The New Republic* and another panel member on the TV show, was visibly upset by Manion's answers, which he termed "very biased and pronounced views" from a man selected to lead "an objective, non-partisan commission."

He asked Manion: "How can you be the head of a . . . non-partisan commission when from what you have said you have already made up your mind on this issue?"

Manion replied that he had not made up his mind on any issue, nor was he biased. He said his ideas and opinions "were pronounced and well-known before I got this appointment."



Better Light Means Better Scholars

THE day of the hit-and-miss study location and lighting for it is past. Today, more and more parents are realizing that the hours spent on home study assignments, the formative years in which home study is required, and their importance in the habits and progress of their children as future citizens combine to establish the importance of a location planned especially for study.

These study centers should be planned with a knowledge of all the elements which affect good eye-sight, good posture, and mental concentration. Parents of school age children should remember that over ten million students in this country have home study assignments, beginning around the 8th grade level and extending through adult education. The hours of required home study vary from 1 to 5 and occur during the time of year when artificial light is needed. The learning acquired, eye-use, posture and habits formed during this period influence the student a lifetime.

Although lighting in school and libraries is being perfected, surveys show that eyesight defectiveness in grade school is due in great part to inadequate lighting conditions in the students' homes: use of low-wattage bulbs, existence of few desk lamps suited to appropriate study lighting, lack of desk space.

The Desk in the Study Center

In preparing a study center for a school-age child, the desk is the first thing to consider. A flat top desk or table is preferred to a drop-leaf type because it affords more work surface and is more easily lighted. The top surface should be about 24" by 48", and the width not less than 20". The height should be 28" or 29". A table with a glossy finish should not be chosen for a study desk. If the study table is made of mahogany or other dark woods, it should be covered with a light-colored blotter. Desk type linoleums in tan and green are ideal for renovating old desks and tables.

Desk Placement in the Study Center

The study desk should be placed flat against a wall, (never in front of a window) and in a location somewhat removed from family activity to insure the student's privacy during the study hour. This placement assures best lighting control. The wall behind the desk should not be glossy. Light walls or wall paper (in light patterns) is preferable. If the wall is dark or patterned, a celotex (which costs approximately 10c a square foot) tackboard may be hung on the wall with its bottom edge even with the desk top. Another way to conquer the problem of a dark wall is to tack light-colored

blotters around the area above the desk.

The Desk Chair

If it is possible, an adjustable posture chair is desirable for the study center. However, cushions or seat pads may be used for small-statured persons to raise the student sufficiently to locate his eyes correctly in relation to the desk top. For small people, footstools will assure a relaxed posture.

The eye position should be at least 14" above the desk top, for normal reading distance to avoid seeing the very bright lining of the lamp shade. Books should not lie flat on the desk. They should be propped or held slightly tilted toward the eye.

Selection and Placement of Lamps

Two lamps, either wall or table types, provide more even desk illumination than single lamps. However, a single unit with fluorescent tube may be placed ahead of the student in such a manner that the tube is located over the center of the reading or writing material.

Lamp shades for study center lamps should be lined with a light color. They should be wider at the bottom than at the top and open at the top.

For recommended lamps now on the market for the study center, consult the following list.

Continued on Page 24

The Carolina Homemaker



Edited by Rebekah Rivers

The Cows Contribute to Christmas . . . and furnish the homemaker attractive and thrifty gifts



Gifts made from cotton bags are going to be found under many a Christmas tree this year. The reason is that the containers used for packaging feed, flour, fertilizer, and other farm supplies offer a wonderful source of material for home sewing, and thus a happy and thrifty solution to the problem of what to give the family and friends.

These materials can be converted into attractive pillow cases, place mats, bedroom slippers, umbrella covers, and dust mitts. You can delight youngsters with doll clothes, bean bags, and stuffed animals.

As those of you who have tried feed-bag sewing know, preparing these bags for sewing is a simple process. The chain-stitched seams rip out easily when the thread is clipped in the lower corner near the fold. Take the top thread in one hand, the bottom thread in the other, and pull. Paper band labels or trade names printed in wash-out inks come off when the bags are soaked in water for a few minutes. After ripping, washing, and ironing, get out your pins and scissors, plug in your electric sewing machine, and try some of these gift suggestions. These are only a few ideas, and your own ingenuity will furnish many more.

Sacko the Bronco. Any little boy on your Christmas list will love Sacko, a pony with a cotton-bag head and a stick body. Sacko requires the following materials: scraps of osnaburg and printed bag fabrics; stuffing cotton; red and black embroidery thread; black yarn; old broom handle; and thumb tacks.

Cut two oval-shaped pieces about 20" by 10" from osnaburg fabric. Sew together, leaving one end open. Stuff tightly with cotton except for about 8" of material. Tie extra material into ears, still leaving 2" opening. Push broom handle up into stuffed head. Thumb tack material at open end to handle. Embroidery red mouth and sew on button eyes and nostrils. Sew on yarn for name. Make bridle and reins 1" wide from straight pieces of bag prints.

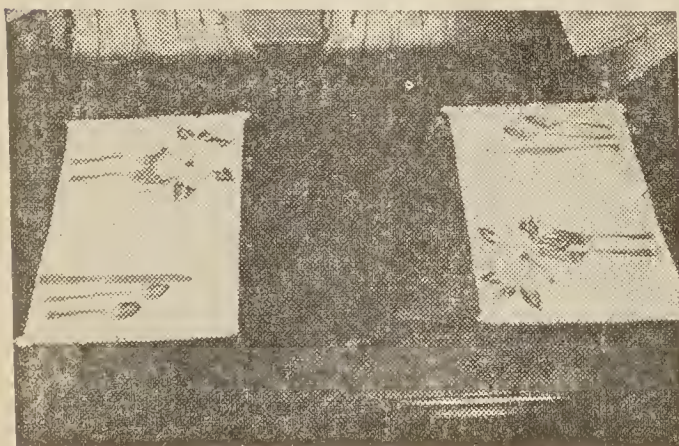
Dust Mitt. A novel dust cloth is a cotton mitt, attached to a dust cloth, which protects the homemaker's hands during household chores. With pinking shears, cut squares of cotton bag cloth 20" by 20". To make pattern for mitt, draw around your hand. Cut two mitts from print material and one from outing flannel. Machine-quilt one of print mitts and flannel mitt together. Stitch quilted mitt to dust cloth. Bind remaining mitt with bias tape. Stitch on top of mitt already attached to cloth. Leave top mitt open at wrist.

Place Mats. A friend who likes to entertain will appreciate your handmade place mats for her table. Make them from osnaburg bag fabric, double-thickness 8" x 12". Cut out large design from cotton bag scraps, and applique in one corner. Top-stitch along fringed edges.

Umbrella Cover. For a gay touch to a rainy day, make a colorful umbrella cover for a friend. Measure length of the umbrella for which cover is to be used. Cut cover 1" longer than measured length of

Continued on Page 16

Place mats, doll clothes, umbrella covers, aprons and even bucking broncos can be made from attractive printed cotton feed bags.



Patterns

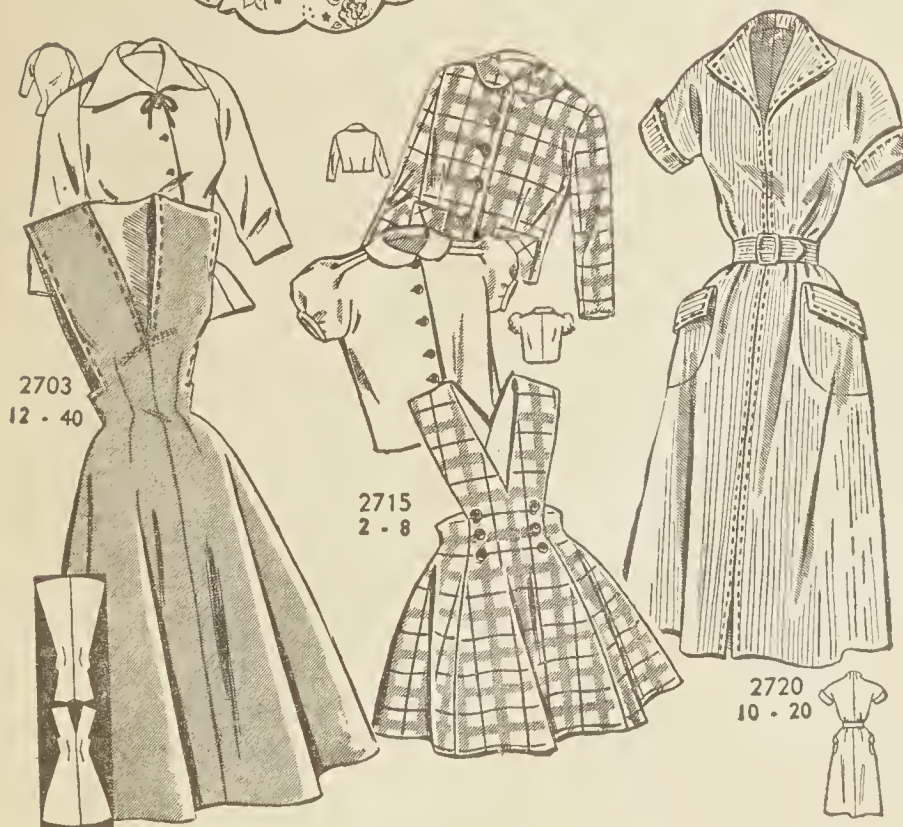
2783. Surprise apron—it has extra little perfection—the back has easy-to-keep-on shoulders! A matching potholder mitt is included, too! Small, medium and large sizes. Medium takes 2-5/8 yards, 35-in. The mitt takes only 3/8 yds., 35-in. fabric.

2740. Two outfits—one pattern: team this attractive six-gore skirt with fitted jacket for smart two-piece; then, switch to weskit top for second fashionable ensemble. Sizes 12-20, 36-46. Size 18: Jacket and skirt take 3 1/2 yds. of 54-in.



2668. Two aprons—one pattern! One, the popular cobbler's style wearable with slacks and skirts; the other a pretty party apron. In one size. Cobbler's apron takes 2 1/2 yds. 35-in. Tea apron, 1 1/2 yds. of 35-in. material.

2703. Nothing could be easier to make than this V-neck princess jumper with front and back cut in one pattern piece! Push-up sleeve blouse is perfect partner! Sizes 12-20, 36-40. Size 16: Jumper, 2 7/8 yds. 54-in. Blouse takes 2 yds. 39-in.



2715. Triple treat! Switch about fashions that will do wonderfully well as school clothes, yet aim high for special occasions, too! Easy-to-make suspender dress has companion jacket, blouse. Sizes 2-8. Size 4: Jumper, 1 yd. 54in. Jacket, 1-3/8 yds. 39-in

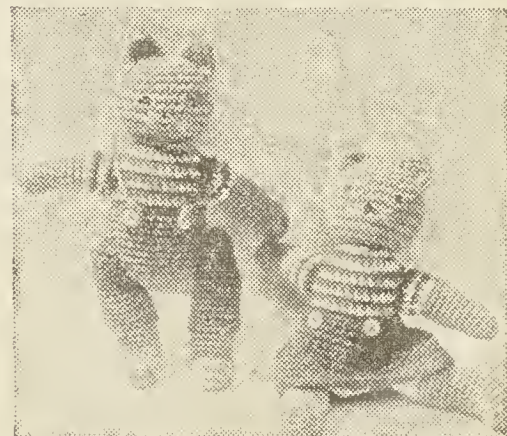
2720. Make this dress in a single day! No collar to make, no sleeves to set in, no waist-line seam, no zipper to put into place! Just close center front seam and top-stitch all the way down! Sizes 10-20. Size 16: 4 1/2 yds. of 35-in. fabric.



Free Pattern Service



P. C. 5502. Baby deserves a soft, warm outfit for his first Christmas. The set shown above is crocheted in cluster stitches with colored ribbon laced through beading and tied into perky bows.



P. C. 5249. Surprise some youngster on Christmas morning with this delightful brother and sister kitten team with their sequin eyes and nose and yarn whiskers. Easy-to-crochet right down to their matching striped shirts, they are stuffed with scraps of yarn or cotton batting to make them soft and cuddly. Made of Chadwick's Red Heart Knitting Worsted.

Pattern Order Form

Please send without charge pattern leaflets which I have indicated below. I am enclosing a STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED envelope for the patterns I have checked.

1. . . Quilt (No. PS3090)
2. . . Sweater (No. PK 5175)
Electric Membership Corporation.....
Comments

This coupon expires December 20. Orders should be in by this date. Address coupons to: Rebekah Rivers, Carolina Farmer, Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C.

Send THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (in coins, no stamps) for each pattern to: Carolina Farmer, Pattern Department, P. O. Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. For Fall-Winter Fashion Books, send additional 25c.

A New Twist For An Old Thanksgiving Favorite

Take an old favorite, give it a new twist, and please your family on a special occasion.

Take the long-honored dessert favorite—pumpkin pie. Whip up a spicy and fluffy chiffon filling; pour it into a crisp, ginger-flavored crust, and you have an extra-special dessert for your important Thanksgiving meal.

Crust Is Easy

The Ginger Cereal Crust provides a flavorsome base for the Pumpkin Chiffon Filling. And, aimed just for the busy homemaker, it is ever so simple to make. Crushed cereal flakes—either corn flakes or whole wheat flakes—combined with sugar, flour, and ginger, are mixed with butter or margarine, spread and shaped in a pie pan, and baked for a few minutes. As it cools, the crust hardens and is ready for the tasty filling.

Make Filling Spicy

As spicy and colorful as fall itself, the pumpkin filling is in keeping with the Thanksgiving color and weather scheme. To make the pie treat even more attractive, you might heap a mound of whipped cream on top, then a few walnut halves. Or spread whipped cream over the top, then sprinkle with cereal crumbs.

Pumpkin Chiffon Pie in Cereal Ginger Crust

Cereal Ginger Crust:

- 4 cups corn flakes or whole wheat flakes
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup melted butter or margarine

Crush cereal flakes very fine. Add sugar, flour, and ginger. Mix in melted butter thoroughly. Press mixture evenly into a 9-inch pie pan, making the bottom slightly thicker than the sides. Bake in moderate oven (350-375° F.) 7 to 10 minutes. Cool before adding cooked filling. Crust will harden while it cools. Yield: 1 9-inch pie crust.

Pumpkin Chiffon Filling:

- 3 eggs, separated
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups cooked or canned pumpkin
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon nutmeg



Let this version of the family favorite, pumpkin pie, be your pride and joy come Thanksgiving Day. The fragrant aroma and the spicy taste of the Pumpkin Chiffon Pie, nestled in the Ginger Cereal Crust, will cause your family to agree it's ideal to serve on the day of thanks.

1 tablespoon (1 envelope) unflavored gelatin

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup cold water

6 tablespoons granulated sugar

Beat egg yolks and brown sugar until thick; add pumpkin, milk, salt, and spices; cook in double boiler until thick. Add gelatin softened in cold water, stir until gelatin dissolves. Cool mixture until it begins to set. Beat egg whites until fluffy. Gradually add granulated sugar, beating well after each addition until stiff. Fold egg whites into pumpkin mixture. Pour into baked shell and chill. If desired, top with whipped cream and sprinkle with cereal crumbs. Yield: Filling for 9-inch pie.

Trim the Pounds

One very serious health problem in the United States today is the fact that at least 25,000,000 people are overweight. Therefore, there is a current emphasis on reducing diets.

Dr. Sidney A. Portis has prepared a 24-page booklet, "Breakfast in the Modern Reducing Diet," containing very valuable information on dieting and foods. The booklet contains several low-caloried breakfast menus, which provide all the proper foods. All subject matter in this booklet is based on current scientific and library research.

The Carolina Farmer has a limited supply of these booklets, which will be sent free of charge on request. Address requests to: **Homemaking Editor, The Carolina Farmer, Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C.**

Over the Co-op Lines

Quick Dessert

Mrs. O. L. Muncy, Rt. 5, Monroe (a Union Electric homemaker), writes that she likes all the *Farmer* but that she particularly enjoys her visit with other homemakers in North Carolina "over the co-op lines." She sends thanks to Mrs. Lela F. Jackson for the pecan pie recipe which Mrs. Jackson shared with readers last month. Mrs. Muncy suggests the following recipe for a quickie dessert when unexpected company arrives at mealtime:

Graham-Apple Sauce Dessert

- 3 graham cracker squares for each serving
- apple sauce for filler

Stack three crackers, filling them with sweetened apple sauce. Top each serving with whipped cream.

Favorite Appliances

Mrs. K. A. Swicegood, Rt. 2, Cleveland (a Davie Co-op member), sings praises of electricity and tells us that her refrigerator is her favorite appliance. When I read her letter, I wondered how all our co-op ladies would rate their electric appliances. Why not write and tell us which of your appliances you like best—which one you've found to be the most labor-saving.

Piccalilli Recipe

Mrs. R. L. Lowery, Rt. 2, Mocksville, sends this piccalilli recipe to garnish wintertime dishes:

Piccalilli

- 1 peck green tomatoes
- 1 head cabbage
- 3 peppers, red and/or green
- 8 large onions
- 1 cup salt

Chop and mix together tomatoes, cabbage, onions and peppers. Add salt and let stand overnight. Drain and add the following ingredients:

- 2 quarts vinegar
- 2 cups brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound mustard seed
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon cloves
- 1 tablespoon allspice
- 2 tablespoons ginger
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Place the cloves, allspice and ginger in a bag. Boil the mixture for thirty minutes. Stir frequently and pour into clean, hot jars. Seal immediately.

Sewing Tips

A co-op homemaker suggests that readers send along some sewing tips and housekeeping aids to be shared in these columns. Another reader requests some help from mothers on entertaining children who are recovering from illness and must be kept in bed.

Does Your Community Need A Doctor?

Continued from Page 10

The entire community should play a role in obtaining the new doctor. He should be shown that he is wanted as a full-time physician — not just as a convenience for cold nights, emergencies or inclement weather. One young North Carolina doctor established practice a few years ago in a rural community. He and his family were very happy with their life there, but practice wasn't what the young man felt it should be for the community's only doctor. He found that his fellow townsmen were driving several miles into a city for medical care, because there was a theory that "good doctors didn't settle in rural communities." Lack of support led the young doctor to reluctantly leave his rural practice and head for the city.

Next, the community should take a long, critical look at what it has to offer the physician. He must have a place to work. If the community has no office space available, what are the chances of cooperatively building offices or a clinic as did the citizens of Newton Grove? Does the community have a registered pharmacist to furnish the new doctor with prescription service? How about hospital facilities? Does the community have a hospital or a building plan in progress? Or is there a near-by hospital? Are road conditions such as to make home-visits rapid for the doctor?

Facilities For Doctors

And the doctor has a family he must consider. Will there be a place for him to live? Some communities in the state have built homes for doctors, when there was none available, offering them reasonable rental or good purchase terms.

Then, of course, doctors, as well as other family men, are interested in good schools, churches, and recreational activities in the community.

A good point for the community to keep in mind when making plans for its doctor-search is that a medical education is an expensive undertaking. Many young doctors enter their first year of practice burdened with debts for their education, leaving them unable to purchase the expensive equipment necessary for their practice. Many communities, like the one mentioned above, have aided their young physicians financially by loans, low rentals on office and home during his first difficult year—and later requiring full rental, offering opportunities for supplementary income in such positions as school health officer, industrial physician, or coroner.

Now the question facing the com-

munity is: "Where do we look for a doctor?" The Medical Society of the State of North Carolina operates a Physician Placement Service in Raleigh. Application for a doctor should be made to James T. Barnes, Executive Secretary, Medical Society of North Carolina, 203 Capital Club Building, Raleigh. A letter, stating the community's needs and including description of the community's life, to the deans of medical schools might attract young graduate physicians who are seeking locations for their practice. An advertisement in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the Journal of the Student American Medical Association, and the publications of the state medical association can attract not only new doctors, but also practicing physicians who desire relocation. State farm organizations, which work very closely with the state medical association, may be able to help the community find a doctor, as may the state board of medical examiners.

Use Your Own Doctor

The best time to make contacts with interns is during winter and spring, as most physicians finish their internships and residencies in June and July.

Once the community succeeds in getting a doctor, it must strive to keep him — and to use him. This cannot be accomplished by one individual — or a small group of individuals. It takes the cooperation of the entire community. The people in the community should educate themselves to use their new doctor to their best advantage. They should make a practice of going to him at his office whenever possible, rather than calling him to the home. His office is staffed with equipment to care for the community's medical needs — this equipment cannot be transported to the home in his little black bag.

The community must also show faith in the doctor. One good doctor, practicing in a small town in a rural N. C. area, had the following experience with lack of community faith in his abilities: He was called one night at two o'clock to the bedside of a five-month-old child. When he asked the parents to bring him up to date on the feverish child's illness, they said: "Well, we had the baby up to the city today to a doctor. He vaccinated him and he's sick now." The doctor's reaction, was, of course, that if he could not vaccinate the child, he probably wasn't capable of advising what to do in case of reaction from the vaccination. Your doctor is a highly educated, well trained man of a proud profession. He wants to be treated as such.

The Rural Exchange

Chickens

Start DENSMORE CHICKS now for best egg prices. Densmore ROP SC White Leghorns (Va.-U. S. Certified, pullorum clean) famous for quality, big eggs, high production. Densmore New Hampshires and White Plymouth Rocks (Va.-U. S. Approved, pullorum clean) for excellent meat qualities. Order now from Virginia's oldest ROP Breeding farm. Fastest delivery. Top liveability. Write for prices and delivery. Densmore Poultry Farm, Box 267-H, Roanoke, Virginia.

Mink Information

MINK RAISING information and pen plans free. Complete. Almost all types. Unconditionally guaranteed. Lake Superior Mink Farms, Superior EE, Wisconsin.

Agents Wanted

MAKE MONEY FOR CHURCH, club or yourself. Sell "Harmony Boutonniers." Fall and Christmas designs now ready. Save time, order \$1.00 or \$3.00 assortment of samples. Satisfaction guaranteed. Or write for information. Clinard's, Harmony, N. C.

R/W Clearing

I can reclear R/W for \$25.00 per unit. This includes side trimming. I have had seven years experience. For particulars write Norris Frody, Rte. 4, Box 387, Gaffney, South Carolina.

Old Autos, Tags Wanted

Do you have an old auto stored away? Here's your opportunity to convert it into cash. Highest prices paid for models before 1915. Also want license tags around 1910. Write complete information, price wanted, to J. J. Malpass, Burgaw, N. C.

Watches, Jewelry

Watches Wanted. Any condition. Also broken jewelry, spectacles, dental gold, diamonds, silver. Cash sent promptly. Mail articles. Satisfaction guaranteed. Lowe's Holland Bldg., St. Louis 1, Missouri.

Rural Exchange Rates

Rural Electric Co-op Members

5c Per Word

Others—10c Per Word

Send Payment With Advertisement

Crop Report Briefs

As of October 1, the North Carolina 1953 cotton crop is forecast at 460,000 bales, 19 per cent below the 1952 crop.

North Carolina peanut farmers are expected to produce 311,550,000 pounds this year, compared with the 1952 crop of 231,250,000.

Kicking hogs causes bloodshot bruises which packers must trim away. National surveys show that nearly half the bruises occur on the ham.

Continued from Page 5

proportion of our farm people are going to get adequate and dependable telephone service at rates they can afford to pay."

Nelsen's remarks to the Independent Telephone officials came after the largest REA telephone borrower—Hoosier Telephone Cooperative in Indiana—had to give up and sell out to a Bell System.

The Wisconsin Upset

Excitable Washington has found a new unexpected reason for excitability in the recent upset in Wisconsin's ninth Congressional District election last month. Lester R. Johnson, a political unknown, won the seat for the Democrats in this district which consists of the western bulge of Wisconsin.

The seat had been held by veteran Republican Merlin Hull for 19 years. Hull, who died last May, is reported to have been one of the few members of Congress who had a perfect record supporting the Rural Electrification Administration program since its inception. This district, which receives service from over 13 rural electric cooperatives, including the generation and transmission Dairyland Power Co-op, was subjected to campaign oratory from some of the top leaders in both parties.

Speculation over the importance of the REA policies of the new administration as a factor in the election has run high. Jim Sullivan, Wisconsin REA News editor, reports, "Growing concern of rural electrification leaders from Wisconsin over Dairyland's ability to receive adequate REA financing to take care of normal power increases by the man out on the farm." He indicated that this was a subject of frequent discussions at political gatherings in the area.

Prominent among those political figures who entered the state to campaign were Claude R. Wickard, former REA Administrator, and Charles Brannan, former Secretary of Agriculture. Senator Estes Kefauver (Tenn.) spoke in the campaign for the Democrats while Senator Styles Bridges (N. H.) and Governor Walter Kohler spoke for the Republicans.

Most observers agree on several facts. The personalities of both candidates, State Senator Arthur Padrutt and Johnson, had almost no influence on the election. While there are close to ten thousand labor people in the area at a rubber plant and a pressure cooker plant there were indications that the

farmers were more responsible for the defeat of the Republican than labor. Finally, editors in the area indicated almost 100% that the farm issue was the underlying factor in the vote.

Area Coverage

Continued from Page 9

companies is simply this: The power company will extend service only if the revenues then to be paid in by the new customer will reimburse the cost of building to him (assuming he hasn't put up the money for that already) and give the company a profit as well. The cooperative will extend service if the revenues then to be paid in by all consumer-members are sufficient to keep the cooperative as a whole operating on a stable financial basis.

Today, some 950-odd electric cooperatives have demonstrated beyond question both the soundness and fairness of these principles. If one desires proof of this, let him observe the over four million farm families throughout the nation who are now receiving electric service because of them.

Marshall to Morehead

Continued from Page 4

December 4. This time he'll be speaking to the annual meeting of the Woodstock EMC at Belhaven. This will be the fifth time the administrator has talked to Tarheel audiences during his brief tenure in Washington.

Speaking of Mr. Nelsen, you'll find an account of his early months in office on Page 7, written by Mr. Nelsen. You'll also find an editorial on the same subject on page 26, written by us. We recommend both.



Continued from Page 9

Recommended Study Lamps

1. Pair of pin-to-wall lamps. 6" plastic bowls, 10 watts each. 6" x 6½" x 9½" (top diameter, vertical depth, bottom diameter), luminous (pastel) shades. Hang 15" from desk top to bottom of shade and 24" to 30" apart. Approximate price, \$7.00, up.

Note: A table model with two extension-arms of approximate qualities and dimensions is equally satisfactory.

Pair of certified (CLM) wall lamps, luminous shades, 150 watts, 30" to 36" apart for desks wider than 24". Approximate price, \$27.00 up.

2. One 25" certified (CLM) table lamp, 150-watt, luminous shade, placed no more than 15" to left—or to right for left-handed student—of work center and in line with it (or as near the front edge of the desk as feasible). Approximate price, \$10.00 up.

3. One 25" table lamp with 8" or 9 3/8" plastic or blown-glass bowl, 150-watts, 10" x 10" x 18" luminous shade, placed no more than 15" to the left of desk center. Approximate price, \$10.00 up.

4. One 25" table lamp, 150-watt shade indirect-lite lamp bulb, slightly luminous shade, at least 10" x 10" x ", placed as 2 and 3. Approximate price, \$9.00 up.

5. One wall lamp using 150-watt white indirect-lite lamp bulb with pastel slightly luminous shade 7" x 7½" x 11½" hung 12" to left of desk center, 15" from desk top to lower edge of shade. Approximate price, \$6.00 up.

6. One 21" table lamp with 6" bowl (preferably plastic or blown glass) with flaring 16" shade placed no more than 12" to left of desk center (for small desks only). Approximate price, \$9.00 up.

Many inadequately low lamps can be increased in height with wood bases and be equipped with screw-on plastic bowls and new shades. Approximate price, \$2.75.

7. The home craftsman may build a satisfactory lighting system for the study desk, using a 3" deep shelf on the front of which is mounted wiring channel and a 20-watt (or for long desks, two 20-watt or one 40-watt) white fluorescent tube with a front shield of plastic or metal (painted white on the inner and near white on the outer side). The shelf must extend out from the wall (about 9" for 24" deep desks) sufficiently to locate the tube over the center of reading or writing area. Approximate cost of wiring channel and lamp, \$4.00—20-watt size.

For the North Carolina Farmer

According to state PMA officials many Carolina farmers penalize themselves hundreds of dollars each year through improper cotton marketing. Too often the crop is dumped on an already glutted local market, sells at sacrifice prices. Farmers need never sell under the loan rate for a particular staple and grade. Best advice: Immediately after receiving classification card compare local market price with government loan rate; if the market is lower, have cotton graded to qualify for the commodity loan program.

* * *

Tobacco stalks still standing in many North Carolina fields are an open invitation to extensive nematode damage next year. Exposure of roots to sun and air soon after harvest is best preventive control of nematodes, can reduce their number the next year by one-fourth. Fact that fields have been fumigated makes no difference; such treatments never kill all the nematodes present. Best method of getting the roots out of the ground is plowing with running plow. After this they should dry for four or five days. Second treatment with a light harrow will bring out more roots.

* * *

A ban was placed on shipments of South Carolina hogs into the state near the end of October because of an outbreak of vesicular exanthema (VE) near Charleston. The hogs were fed raw garbage from an Army camp, later scattered throughout South Carolina. A similar ban on Florida hogs was lifted last month. South Carolina hog dealers were immediately alarmed by the development, with good reason: one of them ships a million dollars' worth of hogs into the state annually. VE disease has essentially the same effect on hogs that hoof and mouth disease has on cattle.

* * *

Skidding North Carolina farm prices are emphasized in the latest report from the State-Federal Crop Reporting Service. The survey covers the month ending September 15 and shows drops in prices for all farm products except tobacco, hogs and wool. As compared with the same period in 1952, beef cattle are down from \$25 to \$12.50, calves from \$25.30 to \$15.40, sheep from \$15 to \$7, lambs from \$26.50 to \$20.20. Wool is up from 51 cents to 53 cents per pound.

The meat animal index at 305 is 76 points under 1952 and is at the lowest level since September, 1946.

Cotton is down from 39.9 cents per pound to 33.5 cents, cottonseed from \$70 per ton to \$50 per ton. Corn fell from \$1.94 to \$1.73, wheat \$2.04 to \$1.83, oats \$1 to 90 cents, barley \$1.50 to \$1.35, rye \$2.45 to \$2.35. Sweet potatoes are down from \$3.55 per bushel to \$3.10, potatoes from \$3 to \$1.60.

Milk fell from \$5.85 per hundred pounds to \$5.35, milk cows from \$164 per head to \$110. Eggs at 57.5 cents per dozen are only slightly less than last year.

* * *

Peanut growers in the state, fighting to overcome a steady drop in prices, planted their smallest crop in 30 years in 1953—185,000 acres. State's quota for 1954 has been cut to 168,813 acres, with growers going to the polls on December 15 in a referendum to determine if controls will be extended. They have little choice: with quotas the crop will be supported at 90 per cent of parity next year, and between 75 and 90 per cent in 1955 and 1956; without them, support price will be only 50 per cent to cooperators.

* * *

USDA acted suddenly last month to reduce the federal government's share of indemnities to owners of Bang's disease cattle. For the rest of the fiscal year payments have been reduced from \$12.50 to \$9 for grade animals and from \$25 to \$18 for purebreds, a cut of 28 per cent. The State Department of Agriculture immediately announced that it would continue making full payments. In the past the state and federal governments have matched funds up to total payment of \$25 for grades and \$50 for purebreds. The slash in USDA funds will leave the payments at \$21.50 and \$43, respectively. Infected cattle are slaughtered to control the disease. USDA failed to give the 30 days' notice customary in such cases.

* * *

Taxes levied on farm real estate in North Carolina in 1952 averaged 52 cents per acre, compared with an average of eight cents during the five-year period, 1909-1913. The 1952 average figure is less, however, than the average of 59 cents in the depression year of 1930. Farm taxes averaged 51 cents per acre in 1951 and 50 cents in 1950.

MAIL BOX

To the Editor:

We use about 1200 kwh. each month on our dairy and poultry farm. A private utility company had refused for seven years to build the ¼-mile line to our farm, when our cooperative (French-Brood Electric) built it for us. There are 10 other houses on this line.

Mrs. C. B. Gillespie
Rt. 2, Burnsville

To the Editor:

My husband and I were the ones to cover our territory when we first negotiated to get electric lights. We have had fine cooperation from our cooperative (Four-County Electric Membership Corporation).

Mrs. J. A. Newkirk
Watha

To the Editor:

I found the October *Carolina Farmer* very informative, particularly "Questions Most Frequently Asked About Rural Electrification." I note however that in answering one question you say "Rural electric consumers have invested over \$1,000,000 in electric appliances and equipment." Shouldn't you have said \$1,000,000,000?

C. M. King
Asheboro

Three digits can be an awful lot of money. Reader King is correct, the statement should have read: "Rural electric consumers have invested over \$1 billion in electric appliances and equipment."—EDITOR

To the Editor:

I enjoy the *Carolina Farmer* very much—it gets better all the time. I have been a member of the Union Electric Membership Corporation for a long time. It gives good service.

Mrs. J. F. Beard
Rt. 3, Matthews

To the Editor:

I enjoy the *Carolina Farmer* very much, but I especially enjoyed the article, "Questions and Answers on REA," in the October issue.

Miss Linda Marton
Danbury

To the Editor:

I look forward to the *Carolina Farmer* each month—and I enjoy my rural electricity more each month!

Mrs. Hayden Teague
Rt. 2, Taylorsville

Statewide Report

By William T. Crisp

The pocketbook of every electric cooperative consumer in America will be directly and adversely affected if the proposal to increase the interest rate on REA loan funds is adopted by the next Congress.



One sponsor of this proposal, Rep. Clardy of Michigan, is a confessed enemy of the rural electrification program.

The other sponsor of the proposal is no less a personage than Director of the Budget Joseph M. Dodge.

One look at the operating reports of most North Carolina electric membership corporations will show why this proposal should be defeated. A higher interest rate would have meant operating in the red for many cooperatives over the past years. It would also have prevented rate reductions which some co-ops have fortunately been able to put into effect.

If the proposal is adopted now it will undoubtedly cause some red ink in the future. Moreover, it will raise the possibility that some rate schedules will be increased and that others will not be reduced as soon as they otherwise would have been.

But, up and above these reasons, it would be both unfair and unsound to increase the present interest rate. It would be unfair because our people have been scrupulously punctual in repaying every dollar of both principal and interest coming due to Uncle Sam on these loans. Cooperative rate schedules have been affected accordingly.

It would be unsound because it defies a fact which seventeen years of experience have proved—that 2 per cent is the highest interest rate this program can support if electricity is to be made available to our people at a price which enables them to participate fully in power useage.

The 2 per cent interest rate therefore inures not merely to the benefit of electric consumers; it makes possible their purchase and use of literally millions of appliances and items of equipment, thereby stimulating the American economy in general and benefiting everyone. And in that way the United States Treasury is receiving revenues far in excess of what it will receive if the interest rate is made so high that electric consumption is discouraged.

This is one proposal which, because it directly affects all our people, deserves their unanimous opposition. The way to express that opposition is by writing your United States Congressman and Senators. The time to defeat this measure is now, before Congress convenes in January.

There is an old saying to the effect that "Time is a bird, and the bird is on the wing . . ."

EDITORIALS

"The First Five Months"

Displayed prominently on Page 7 is REA Administrator Ancher Nelsen's own account of his first five months in Washington. It is there because we believe Mr. Nelsen has the right to be heard, even though his remarks contain a strong undercurrent of political feeling. We should like, however, to comment on some of the "accomplishments" the administrator claims:

- We see no evidence as yet that the rural telephone program has been "speeded up". On the contrary Mr. Nelsen's action in withdrawing the educational film "Telephones and the Farmer" seems to us an outright concession to the telephone companies who have stifled the phone program, at least in this state. He has continually reaffirmed his belief that telephone problems can be solved by cooperation between rural groups and existing telephone companies. Undoubtedly they could be, but our farmers have tried to "cooperate" for years and still have no telephones. This program can best be "speeded up" by telephone companies agreeing to reasonable interconnection agreements.

- We aren't sure what the administrator has done to safeguard REA loans, but we do know they have always been fully secured by one hundred per cent mortgages. And latest statistics showed that of the \$2¼ billion REA had loaned, only 22/100 of one per cent was in default of repayment. This seems to indicate that the program was pretty sound before Mr. Nelsen took over.

- The government was never in REA borrowers' business, except to provide technical aid where needed. Many of the REA facilities for extending such aid had largely been curtailed before Mr. Nelsen took over, including engineering and auditing services.

It is true that Congress provided a sizable loan fund for this year, but it did so in spite of the budget request, not because of it. For example, Congress appropriated \$40 million more in electrification loan funds, and \$17½ million more in telephone loan funds than the Eisenhower budget requested. This increase did not result from an active effort on the part of the new REA officials.

Some of the things Mr. Nelsen has done recently have impressed us very favorably. We liked his statement on REA interest rates. We liked his speech to the Association of Independent Telephone Companies. We do not like the political tone of his remarks on page 7, or the implication that when Mr. Nelsen took office REA was in dire need of a whirlwind cleanup. Mr. Nelsen's predecessor was a capable executive who did an outstanding job at REA and left it a sound, going organization.

We think Mr. Nelsen is a sincere, hard working man who will make a good administrator; but we think he is a bit premature on page 7.

We Still Don't Know

Last month we noted in this space that the Interior Department had adopted policy which refuses government power to preference customers that serve "large industrial consumers". We were curious to know whether the Department meant industries that are large by any test or simply in comparison with the electricity used by other consumers of a given preference system.

We put this question to the Department in the form of a letter. Replying for the Department, Acting Secretary Ralph A. Tudor informed us that Interior regards any industry in the Northwest which uses 10,000-kilowatts or more as large. He stated, however, that this definition would not necessarily apply in other areas of the nation and that "under different circumstances a larger or smaller value would be proper".

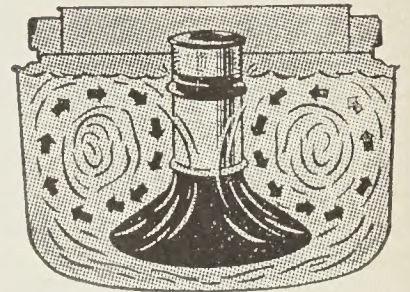
If the term "large industrial consumers" did not have a clear and definite meaning, why was it inserted in an important statement of government policy? Most certainly, if the government has no clearer concept of the term's meaning than indicated by Mr. Tudor, the public cannot be expected to understand it, much less agree with or follow it.

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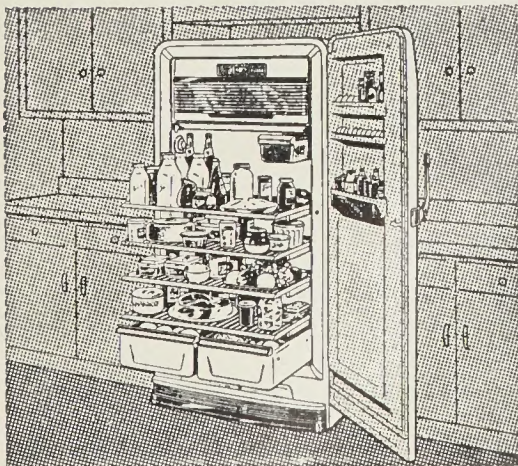
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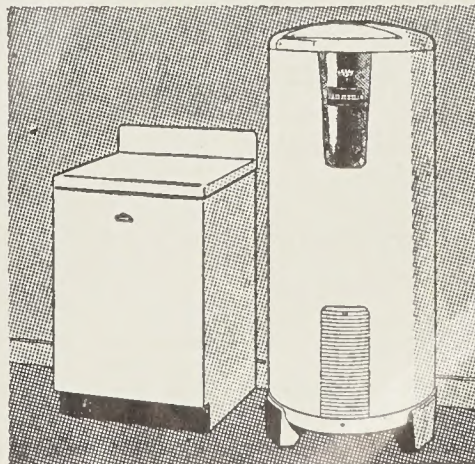
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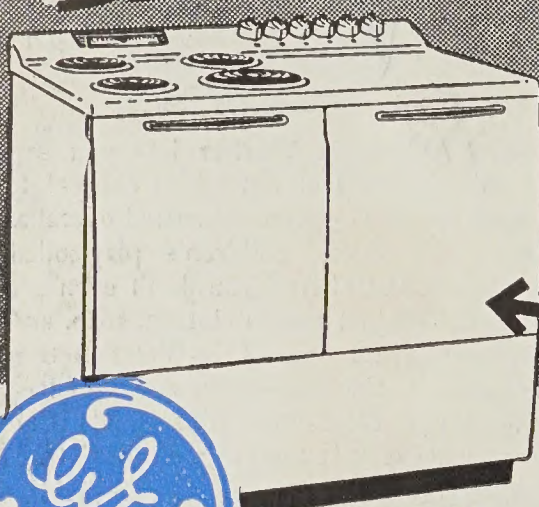
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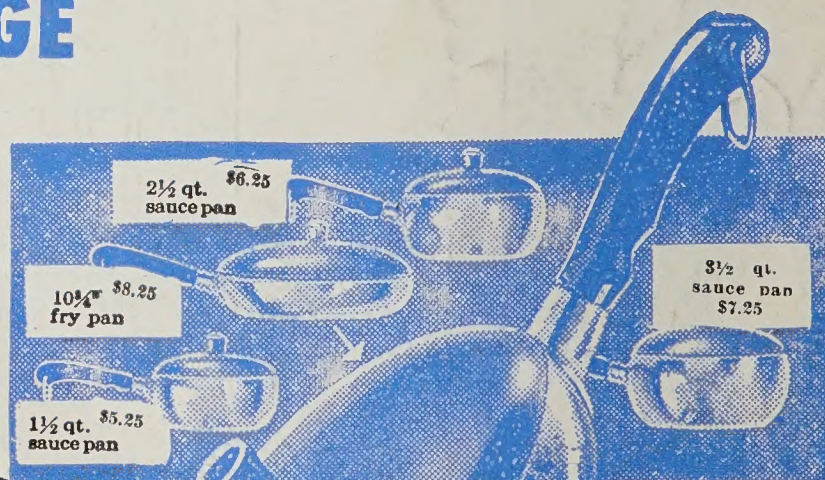
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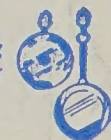
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